

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
August 5, 2004
Ext. 2500

Although it is the beginning of August the pace is already beginning to quicken as we look forward to the beginning of fall semester and the new academic year. I always look forward to fall and to both greeting our entering students, and welcoming back our continuing students. Fall has an excitement in the air that is infectious and reminds me of the opportunities our education provides. If you have had some time away from campus this summer I hope this has provided opportunity for rest and reflection.

August 23rd begins the fall kickoff week. On Monday morning please join us for our fall convocation. We will have a light breakfast available at 7:45 am; the program will begin at 8:15, and we will conclude by 11:30. As part of our welcome back to campus, we will introduce new members of the Ferris family and hear from our new Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Michael Harris.

As part of Convocation on the 23rd I want to visit with you about a vision for the future of Ferris State University. In addition to my remarks we will hear from our planning consultant, Dr. Kim Cameron. Kim is a member of the business and education faculties at the University of Michigan. I believe his work and research with Positive Organizational Scholarship is precisely the assistance that we need as we look to the future.

After these comments we will break out in small group sessions to collect your thoughts and reactions to this vision for Ferris. In this we will be assisted by colleagues from across campus who will serve as discussion leaders. The results of each group's discussions will be shared with everyone in attendance. Together with the information collected from Summer University, this will be important input to plans for our future.

Our annual Employee Picnic is Tuesday, August 24th beginning at 11:30 am. For this we will again set the large tent up in the center of the Quad and have lunch together. Last year I really enjoyed this informal opportunity to visit and I am hopeful your schedule will allow you to join us. Throughout the entire welcome week there are events scheduled for students, faculty, and staff. The schedule is accessible at:
<http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/academics/center/center.htm>

These are exciting times for our University. Summer term enrollment was the largest in our history. We are looking for an outstanding fall semester and believe enrollment will build upon last fall's success. As we continue to gradually raise admission

standards we are seeing both strong student interest in Ferris and most importantly, significant increases in student retention.

As we begin another academic year, I want you to know how much I appreciate you and the extra efforts you make for our people and our university. Thank you for your preparations for our students, for the time you take to welcome our students, and for your willingness to help them understand and adjust to our campus. Your individual and combined efforts both encourage and foster student success. You truly make the difference for our students.

Thank you for your help in starting our school year. As president it is both a privilege and pleasure to welcome you to campus. I look forward to seeing you on August 23rd.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Eisler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

David L. Eisler
President