

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
August 16, 2013

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## Welcome Back

The start of the fall 2013 semester marks the beginning of the 129<sup>th</sup> academic year at Ferris State University. If you have been away over the summer, or any part of the summer, it is a pleasure to have you back on campus. If you are new to our university, I hope that you will find this to be a community that welcomes you and strives to support you in your work, and that helps students succeed.

On Monday, Aug. 19, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. in Williams Auditorium, there is the kick-off event for Welcome Back Week. Entitled "At Our Core," this event utilizes the story-telling model of StoryCorps, which you may be familiar with through their partnership with National Public Radio. Ferris faculty and staff members will focus their storytelling on the university's six Core Values of Collaboration, Diversity, Ethical Community, Excellence, Learning and Opportunity.

Faculty and staff presenting stories include Avesh Raghunandan ("My Personal Journey in the Pursuit of Excellence"), Donna and Bill Smith ("In Learning, Two Wrongs CAN Make You Right"), Nancy Baar, Kimberly Beistle and Kathleen Harlan ("Let's Collaborate S'more!"), Michael Wade ("Ethical Community: A Personal Journey with Respect"), Jordan Fenton ("Embrace and Encourage Difference: How Cultural Diversity Changed My Life") and Jessica Cruz and Tony Baker ("*Promesa*"). Provost Fritz Erickson will deliver a closing presentation titled, "What Counts?"

For a more complete description of "At Our Core" and to access a full schedule of Welcome Back Week events that run through Friday, Aug. 23, visit <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/academics/center/events/2013fall/Core.htm>.

## New Faculty

In particular, I would like to extend a welcome to our new full-time faculty members. I encourage you to help them feel comfortable in their new academic home. Thank you for your strong efforts to educate and prepare our students for the challenges and successes ahead of them.

Sally Borello, College of Health Professions  
David Brown, College of Business  
Gail Bullard, College of Health Professions  
Christopher Cospers, College of Engineering Technology  
Florence Dood, College of Health Professions  
Mark Dunneback, College of Engineering Technology  
Emily Fransted, College of Business  
Monica Frees, Retention and Student Success  
Jessica Gladden, College of Arts and Sciences  
Joseph Hummel, College of Education and Human Services  
Steven Hundersmarck, College of Education and Human Services  
Konara Kollalpitiya, College of Arts and Sciences

Kimberley McVicar, College of Health Professions  
Kathryn Niemeyer, College of Health Professions  
Joshua Pardon, College of Education and Human Services  
Donald Pole, Michigan College of Optometry  
Timothy Powers, College of Business  
Christopher Redker, College of Arts and Sciences  
Cindy Seel, College of Health Professions  
Ali Siahpush, College of Engineering Technology  
Felix Smith, College of Arts and Sciences  
Rachel Soles, College of Health Professions  
Brent Williams, College of Engineering Technology  
Toni Windquist, College of Health Professions  
Vanessa Wyss, College of Education and Human Services

### **First Impressions**

Our annual First Impressions booths help new students, their families and friends find directions, get computer access, discover Ferris Pride and, most importantly, receive a warm “Welcome to Ferris!” Sites are all staffed by Ferris employees. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Laura Monahan at ext. 3905.

There will be First Impressions booths on the following days at these locations:

Aug. 23

- In front of the Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education, by Circle Drive
- Outside Westside Café
- Stop sign outside of College of Pharmacy
- South Quad by steps to The Rock

Aug. 26

- North Quad, by the Carillon Tower
- Stop sign outside of College of Pharmacy
- South Quad by the steps to The Rock
- Science Building, across from the Rankin Center

We don't get a second chance to make a first impression on new students and their families. This is both an important event and one which can be both satisfying and enjoyable. I encourage you to consider sharing some of your time in this volunteer effort. Thank you.

### **Campus Construction**

Whether you are new to campus or have worked here for years, you are aware that major changes are taking place on our Big Rapids campus. Carlisle and Masselink Halls have been torn down and our student center is undergoing a major renovation. When completed our new university center will provide more resources for students and extend opportunities for learning and collaboration outside of the classroom. In line with our master plan, these changes will help facilitate a new configuration of roads and pedestrian pathways to create a better flow of traffic

around the campus perimeter. There are two webcams accessible from the University Center Renovation webpage that allow you to see the changes that are underway.

<http://www.ferris.edu/UCRenovation/>

Many people who worked in the student center are now based in other buildings for the next sixteen months. Those affected by having to move include employees of the James L. Lundberg Bookstore, which is temporary located at 14265 Northland Dr., across from the Racquet Center. Several other groups have new offices in Helen Ferris Hall (HFE), including

- Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services, HFE Terrace Level
- Rankin Student Center Office (room reservation), HFE 023
- Bulldog Radio, HFE 024
- Entertainment Unlimited, HFE 027
- Student Government, HFE 028
- First Lady's Attic, HFE 125
- SERV (Veterans Office, HFE 127

Also, the Honors Program now has new offices in Pickell Hall.

My thanks to everyone who is operating in temporary offices for your patience during the renovation. This is an important and long-overdue project, and your help is greatly appreciated.

### **Founders Day**

Our annual Founders Day celebration will take place on Thursday, Aug. 29, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. I will present some remarks at 11 a.m. in the Science Building, room 126. This will be followed by the employee picnic in the North Campus Quad. Outdoor activities in the Quad begin at 3 p.m., and the popular ice cream social runs from 4-6 p.m. This has become a great traditional part of the beginning of the academic year. If you have not had the opportunity to attend a previous Founders Day, this is a wonderful introduction to campus and to the vitality of Ferris students, so whether you are new to Ferris or a long-time employee, please make plans to attend.

The beginning and the end of the academic year are always times of great excitement and energy on campus. I hope that you share in this feeling. With our full complement of students back for classes, we look forward to the strides they will take in their Ferris education. As the semester advances, please feel free to contact me with news of the successes not only of our students, but your own as faculty, staff and friends of the university. You can e-mail me at [eislerd@ferris.edu](mailto:eislerd@ferris.edu).

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president