

Thank you for braving the rain yesterday to celebrate our founders, Woodbridge N. and Helen Gillespie Ferris. Despite the bad weather, it was wonderful to see so many of you who took part in an important day at our University.

Before our picnic on the Quad, Dr. Robert von der Osten and I talked about the strategic planning process, our mission, vision and core values statements, and University history. Robert's slides are posted on the Ferris Web site at <http://www.ferris.edu/president/speeches/sparc.html>. My slides and remarks are posted at <http://www.ferris.edu/president/speeches/FoundersDay2.html>. If you were unable to make it to the presentations yesterday, please take a moment to click on the links and take a look at the overview of where we have been and where we are headed. When your schedule permits I encourage you to also visit the Strategic Planning website - <http://www.ferris.edu/president/strategic/>.

Given the inclement weather, yesterday's Ice Cream Social was moved to the Student Recreation Center. I want to thank everyone who took time to visit with our community, greet our celebrity servers, and enjoy some ice cream. Special thanks go to Miles Postema and his colleagues in the Governmental Relations and General Counsel's Office for organizing and coordinating this very successful event.

Next year's Founders Day events should be an extraordinary occasion as we kick off Ferris State University's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I look forward to this celebration of our very special and unique heritage.

David L. Eisler