

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
December 10, 2012

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## Commencement

On Saturday we will honor our most recent graduates at Fall Commencement. The ceremony for Business and Health Profession graduates is at 10 a.m.; Arts and Sciences, Education and Human Services, and Engineering Technology is at 1:30 p.m. Our Commencement Speaker is the 2012 Ferris Distinguished Teacher, Dr. Clifton Franklund.

It is always an honor and a privilege to be a part of this ceremony, which celebrates the achievements of our students as they take the next step in their careers. We are fortunate to have extraordinary students at Ferris State University. They manage classes, work and other responsibilities in a way that requires commitment, dedication and sacrifice. Even with heavy study loads, our students volunteer thousands of hours helping others in the community every year. Commencement is a time when we all can reflect on the growth and development of these remarkable graduates, a trajectory that has shaped so many at our University. Thank you for the difference you have made for these graduates.

In preparation for each Commencement I take time to meet some of our graduates and to hear their stories of success and accomplishment, as well as the challenges they have overcome to reach this moment. It is humbling to hear these stories, which always increases my appreciation for our students and the power of education to shape a person's life. At Saturday's Commencement ceremonies I will share some of these stories.

As we approach Commencement I want to thank the many people who work hard making certain this is a memorable experience for our graduates, their friends and families. As always our faculty are invited and encouraged to join us. If you are a staff member and would like to attend the ceremonies, please contact Elaine Kämtner in our office (x2500) and we will find a place for you as space permits. For more information about Commencement, visit <http://www.ferris.edu/commencement/>.

## Good News

As our fall 2012 semester draws to a close, it is my pleasure to have another list of Good News items to share with the Ferris community. If you have taken a few moments during the past year to follow the many positive developments reported from across all of our colleges and divisions, then you know our students, faculty and staff are accomplishing amazing things.

We are fortunate to have remarkable, engaged faculty, staff and students. Their efforts and successes make great reading and reflect the life of a strong, vibrant university community. Please take time to read this latest listing of outstanding things taking place at Ferris State University. The Good News items for December can be accessed at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/goodnews/GN2012Dec.pdf>.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share and collect these great things taking place at Ferris. And to those whose work is featured here, congratulations on your success. I look forward to hearing from you in 2013 and sharing more of your accomplishments.

## **Support Ferris in 2012**

Each year private support makes an important contribution to the lives of students at Ferris State University. An important part of this support comes from Ferris faculty and staff. As we work to address the rising challenge of student debt, it is important we double the scholarship support we provide. In an economic environment that has meant decreased public funding, we can directly help our students through our efforts. Importantly, we can demonstrate to donors outside of the university that we, as a community, believe in our educational mission and our students.

This season is the perfect time of the year to show this support to our students. I am hopeful you will consider a gift to help support the Ferris mission, whose vitality is important to all of us. A special website has been developed to facilitate this at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/alumni/develop/>.

Thank you for taking time to consider making this further commitment to Ferris.

## **Holidays**

As we near our holiday break, I am struck by what a remarkable year 2012 has been for Ferris State University. Thank you so very much for the work you have done throughout the year on behalf of the university community. This begins with the education you provide for our students. It is the reason for our university and is at the core of our efforts. There has never been a time when the unique career-oriented education we provide students has been more important for their future success.

There are many highlights from the past year: the opening of our Pharmacy campus at 25 Michigan in Grand Rapids, our expanded Jim Crow Museum, the unveiling of the renovated Federal Building and the success of our student-athletes, including the members of our hockey team who made it to the national championship game.

This is a time of year to reflect upon these and other successes, and to be appreciative of the dedication, collaboration and committed hard work it took to make them happen. It is also the time of year for many to spend time with family and friends. Whatever your holiday plans I hope that there is within those plans some time for rest and relaxation. I wish you a great, joyous holiday season. If you are travelling, I also wish you safe travel.

While these are times of challenge for higher education, they are also times of opportunity and I know of no place more committed to opportunity than Ferris. Thank you for everything you do for our students and for Ferris State University.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president