

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
December 8, 2014

Earlier this week my office let the Ferris community know that I travelled to Grand Rapids to be treated for some health concerns. I was admitted Tuesday evening and was released Saturday afternoon. It is good to be home, but I need to rest and take time to allow my body to heal. While I plan to be at commencement there are other events I will miss or appointments that will be re-scheduled. I want to thank everyone who expressed their concern and sent messages for my speedy recovery. I believe you understand that by nature, it is hard for me to not keep a full schedule. For the rest of the semester I must do less, but do so with the expectation of being back to my usual routine after the first of the year.

Events: Pancakes with the President, Holiday Reception, Commencement

As a result of my limited schedule, we will hold our Pancakes with(out) the President event at The Rock this evening, Dec. 8, with preparations beginning at 9:30 p.m., and food being served to our students from 10 p.m. to midnight. Please take a moment to help with what has become a very popular event with our students. To do so, please contact either Elaine Kamptner or Terri Cook at extension 2500. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our students during exam week, which can be a very stressful time for them.

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 3-5 p.m. in the IRC Connector, we will have our annual Employee Holiday Reception. Please find time in your busy schedule to attend. There is no need to RSVP, so if you can stop by even briefly, please do so. There are few events where we as colleagues are able to socialize without it being tied to a meeting, or other work function. This is a chance to simply relax, enjoy light food and beverage, and celebrate the season. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Kamptner at extension 2504.

Our Commencement ceremonies for students graduating this fall semester will take place at Wink Arena on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 10 a.m. for the College and Business, and College of Health Professions; and 1:30 p.m. for the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education and Human Services, and College of Engineering Technology. I want to thank everyone who works so very hard to make commencement a moving experience for our students. This is the final event of the academic year for our graduating seniors. Hopefully this is a moment they will remember for the rest of their lives. If you know a graduating senior, please congratulate them on their achievement. We want to send our newest alumni out into the world with the best possible memories of Ferris State University.

As in the past I will be highlighting some individual student stories. Our students, their achievements, and the challenges they overcome are a true inspiration. I only wish time allowed for us to recognize the story of each and every one of our graduates, because each has an important story to tell. You are a very important part of that story. Earning a college degree is one of life's landmarks – especially for those students who are the first in their families to reach this distinction.

Holiday Wishes

Please accept my sincerest wishes for a joyful holiday season and a happy new year. My experiences this past week reminded me how important it is to spend some time in reflection, and to feel gratitude for the things that are positive in our lives. I hope that between now and start of our spring semester that you can find time to celebrate with family and friends, relax, or take part in whatever activities help you to feel rejuvenated. If you are travelling, please do so safely. Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of our students in 2014. I look forward to 2015 with excitement and enthusiasm for what is ahead.

David L. Eisler, president