

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
March 24, 2014

Money Smart Week

One of the pieces that has gone into the development of a new university strategic plan is an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for our future. Without question, student debt is one of those threats. In response, the American Library Association and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago are partners on a national awareness campaign, Money Smart Week.

I am delighted Ferris State University has joined this partnership and is presenting a series of Money Smart Week events intended to help students become more financially literate. One of the important ways we can address student debt is to help students reduce and most effectively manage their educational expenses. Please encourage students to attend these events which are designed to be both entertaining and informative. All are scheduled in room 240 of the FLITE library.

- April 7, 7 p.m., “End Money Stress...How to Manage Finance, Credit and Debt,” This presentation focuses on how students can establish and protect their credit, and how sound financial decisions they make now will have a lasting impact.
- April 9, “Get Real,” is an interactive game that simulates real-life economic choices. Students can arrive any time between 4 and 7:30 p.m. to complete the game that takes approximately 30-45 minutes. There will be free pizza and refreshments while supplies last.
- April 10, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., “Fast Forward” is a follow-up to “Get Real.” The Financial Awareness Student Team will lead groups in discussion about the Get Real event. The first 25 participants at each session will receive a coupon good for a free coffee at Between Chapters Cafe.

Get more information for Smart Money Week and links to pre-register for “Get Real” at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/admission/financialaid>. Students pre-registering for “Get Real” will be entered into a drawing with prizes including three \$250 scholarships and Ferris apparel. I want to thank Scott Garrison and the FLITE Library, and Sara Dew, Melanie Mulder and the Financial Aid Office for their leadership in sponsoring this event.

Benefits and Health Expo

This Wednesday, March 26, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Human Resources is hosting a Benefits and Health Expo in the Sports Complex at Wink Arena. This is a great opportunity to get information both from the university and from some company providers. The event also includes presentations and workshops on a range of topics that take place primarily at the Michigan College of Optometry Building, Room 210:

- 12-12:25 p.m., Diabetic Education
- 12:30-1:15 p.m., Stress Management
- 1:30-2:15 p.m., Seven Steps to a Secure Retirement
- 2:30 – 3 p.m., Coping with Change
- 3-3:25 p.m., Understanding and Improving Your Credit
- 3:30-4:30 p.m., Pre-Retirement
- 4:40-5 p.m., Maximize Your Medical Flexible Spending Account
- 5:30 p.m., Retirement

There will be refreshments and drawings for door prizes. For more information visit <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/adminandfinance/human/Benefits/BenefitInfo/ExpoFlyer.pdf> , or call Human Resources at ext. 2150. I want to thank our Human Resources people for putting together this useful and informative program.

Hospitality Management Gala

This Friday, March 28, our Hospitality Management program is hosting its annual gala at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center. Our students work throughout the year planning, managing and executing the event. This is always one of my favorite evenings; great food prepared with the assistance of guest chefs, a silent auction of travel, lodging, and entertainment packages from around the country and an atmosphere that is fun and entertaining. This year's theme is "A Gala at Gatsby's." Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m.

It is always impressive to see the results of our students' efforts and the strong partnerships our Hospitality Management faculty have established with their industry partners. Donations from this evening go into the Gala Scholarship Endowment. A copy of this year's menu, which includes Pork Tenderloin Wellington with Bernaise Sauce and Maple Glazed Salmon in Sweet Potato Boat, is on the gala web page. To learn more or to support the Hospitality Program and its students by making a reservation, visit <http://www.ferris.edu/business/programs/hospitality/gala> .

Hockey

Our men's ice hockey team's first season in the Western Hockey Conference Association has already been one to remember as they go into the NCAA tournament. This past weekend they participated in the first WCHA tournament in Grand Rapids. In the semi-final game on Friday evening, the team won a very exciting overtime victory against the University of Alaska-Anchorage. Our Bulldogs gained an early 2-0 advantage before UAA scored four unanswered goals. After we tied the game in the second period, both teams played solid defense in a scoreless third period. Freshman Gerald Mayhew, who also scored the game's first goal, sealed the victory with a score less than three minutes into overtime.

Saturday evening the team had a hard-fought loss to Minnesota State University in the championship game. Falling down two goals they fought back to 2-1 in the second period, before ultimately losing 4-1 with the last goal into an empty net.

A team of individuals from across our university in Administration and Finance, Advancement and Marketing, and Student Affairs worked very hard to produce a strong Ferris showing in Grand Rapids. It was great to see so many alumni back for this game, and impressive numbers of students attending both evenings. I want to thank everyone involved with this effort and the 3,500+ fans who showed up to support our team.

In addition to the success enjoyed by the team as a whole, there have been impressive individual achievements during the course of the season. Head coach Bob Daniels was named WCHA Coach of the Year. Junior goaltender CJ Motte is a one of 10 finalists for the prestigious annual Hobey Baker Award presented to the season's top collegiate player. The award honors a player who displays character and achievement both on and off the ice. Only two previous Ferris players - Chris Kunitz and Rob Collins - have been named to the Hobey Baker top ten finalists. The winner will be named based on voting by a Selection Committee, as well as on-line ballots that are being accepted now through March 30. To vote, go to www.hobeybakeraward.com .

I hope you will go online to support CJ Motte with your vote, and also join me in congratulating Coach Bob Daniels for the remarkable job he has done with the team in their inaugural WCHA season.

Our team has seen extraordinary success throughout this remarkable year. Already they have achieved a school-record 16-game unbeaten streak, won the regular season WCHA Championship, have a nation-leading 28 wins, and finished 5th in the nation on the Pairwise Ratings. These are the basis for seeding into the NCAA National Tournament.

As a result, our team was assured a place in the NCAA National Tournament, a tremendous achievement. They will travel to Cincinnati, Ohio, for the Midwest Regional and open on Friday, March 28th at 4:30 p.m. against Colgate. The game will be broadcast live on ESPN3 and rebroadcast later that evening at 10:30 p.m. on ESPNU. A victory will put our team into the regional final Saturday evening. Please join me in wishing this outstanding team and their coaches continued success heading into the NCAA tournament.

Thank you,

David L. Eisler, president