

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
March 5, 2014

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## Testimony

Last Thursday I provided testimony to the State Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, which is considering Governor Snyder's proposed budget for Michigan's public universities. The governor's proposal would increase higher education funding by 6.1 percent. Because of Ferris' success in meeting the goals set out in the state's performance funding metric, our university increase would be 7.8 percent, or about \$3.5 million.

In speaking in support of the governor's proposed budget, I noted some of the reasons why our university has fared so well under the performance-metric guidelines. Over the past decade –

- The number of bachelor degrees we award has increased 43 percent
- The number of graduates in critical-skills areas has increased by more than 1,200 graduates
- We are a leader in concurrent education and reverse transfer agreements, and
- We have been more efficient than any other public university in Michigan in terms of constraining costs.

As I have on other occasions, I stressed the need for the legislature to grant us relief from the excessive costs of the Michigan Public School Employment Retirement System, or MPERS. My testimony pointed out that last year Ferris returned 21.6 percent of our state appropriations due to MPERS. This equates to every full-time Ferris student paying \$823 in tuition to support MPERS costs.

I hope you will take a few moments to read the text of my testimony. Our Ferris community is very knowledgeable about higher education issues, and those we face regarding funding in particular. It is very helpful having such a well-informed campus. Our elected officials, their staff and others take note of how engaged our university is and this makes a real difference. You can access my testimony at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/presentations/2013-2014/index.htm>.

## Business Leaders for Michigan

It is heartening to see support for increased higher education funding coming from a number of different groups. One of the most prominent is the Business Leaders for Michigan. The BLM has established a Facebook page, [Make Opportunity Affordable: Support Higher Education in Michigan](#), aimed at supporting the governor's recommendation. The page, and the BLM's messages, are focused on the facts about higher education and its importance to Michigan's future.

I would invite you to “like” or “share” the page. In addition to providing information, the BLM's Facebook page will have a tool that facilitates communication with state lawmakers for those who have “liked” the page. As members of Michigan's higher education community, this is an opportunity to show that there is broad consensus for the governor's budget proposal, which begins to restore funding for our state universities that has been lost over the past several years.

## Conversion to Office 365

Many of us, with the exception of faculty and staff in Academic Affairs and at Kendall College of Art and Design, experienced the conversion of our e-mail, calendaring and online collaborative systems to Office 365 over this past weekend. Academic Affairs and KCAD will be converted this coming weekend. Our Information Technology Services staff has worked diligently to make this very complicated transition happen as smoothly and with as little interruption as possible.

Certainly the new system is different than what we have grown accustomed to with the old Lotus Notes product. There is more functionality and power with this system, but it does require some thought about actions that were previously familiar through habit. When you are learning the new system, you will most likely have questions about Office 365 and what actions you may need to take to optimize the new system's use. There are many different resources you can access by going to

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/mytechsupport/servicecat/emailcalmessage/office365/Post-Lotus-Notes-To-Office-365.htm> .

One of the links on this page may be helpful to you in learning about the new system. During this period our Technical Assistance Center support staff is being augmented with outside assistance. I made use of this late Monday and found it very helpful.

There is no denying that changing email platforms is a major undertaking and that for nearly all of us the learning curve is still ongoing. Thank you for being understanding as we all seek to use these new tools.

## Good News

It is a pleasure to share news of the many great things taking place at our university. This is a very busy time as we approach the mid-point of the spring semester. This is reflected in the many achievements that our students, faculty and staff are enjoying. In reading this month's compilation, I was struck by the significant recognition earned by students across our university. I hope you will enjoy the student achievements below that have been taken from this month's listing of highlights.

There are many deserving accomplishments by faculty, staff and students not included here. Please take a moment to take a look at this full list of items at

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/goodnews/homepage.htm> .

- College of Business Graphic Design students were awarded a Gold and Silver West Michigan ADDY Award in the student category. The gold was awarded for their branding of the Katke Golf Course and the silver award honored the integrated campaign for Design Project Center.
- Professional Tennis Management students Alex Meyers and Erik Seifert served as official stringers for the Italian Fed Cup team at the U.S. vs. Italy Fed Cup match. Fed Cup is the oldest annual international women's competition.
- Fancisco Iniguez, a student in the HVACR program, was one of three next generation HVACR Technicians to be awarded \$10,000 from the Hilmor Retool Your Future 2013 Scholarship Contest.

- Five Finance students competed in the annual CFA Institute Research Challenge. The Ferris team (Brian Devries, Corbin Hammond, Jonathan Lampen, Elizabeth Schroeder, Linzy Yerke) placed second in the competition
- The students from the College of Business American Marketing Association earned one of the Top 10 Finalist spots for The Hershey Company's Take 5 Case Competition.
- The ISI Program's first ever Ferris CCDC Team achieved second place in the competition this weekend. The team consisted of Julius Marshall, Joseph Schlehber, Chi Luong, Rueil-An Yang (team captain), Eric Hendershott, Shaileshwori, Bhatta Acharya and Wendy Hedersbeck.
- The KCAD Clay Collective has been working with Thresholds, a non-profit social service agency that provides services to developmentally challenged Kent County residents and their families, on a tile mural project.
- Kendall students won fourteen awards at the regional level of the 2014 American Advertising Federation ADDY awards. Amy Johnson took home the prestigious Best in Show Award, while Nicholas Tisch and Drake Evans each won Judge's Choice Awards. Gold ADDYs were awarded to Shannon Mack, Briana Garza, and Jacob Hollenbeck, while silver ADDYs went to Kaitlyn Perkins, Andy Jansma, Caleb Van Dyke, Arielle Davey, Zach Kelly, and Ursula Casanova. Students winning gold ADDYs will move on to the state level of the completion.
- Kendall student art is displayed in the Gerald R. Ford Airport. Matt Gubancsik and Laurie Hunt have printmaking and photography work that is currently being hosted in the airport's Grand Hall and in the parking garage's second level.
- Kendall illustration students Steven Adams, Devon Daugherty, Mark Fettig, Mackenzie Goss, Erica Hansen, Haley Hungerford, Alexandra Johnson, Tim Kleyn, Michael McClellan, Bridgette McGee, Tyler Space and Samantha Stutzman were all accepted into the prestigious Society of Illustrators annual gallery show that will be held at the Museum of American Illustration in New York City.
- In February, 36 students were trained and became TIPS certified. TIPS training has been a successful way to teach students to make good choices with regard to using alcohol.
- For the third consecutive year, the men's ice hockey program has a finalist for the national Senior CLASS Award - Team captain Scott Czarnowczan. The award goes to a NCAA Division I senior student-athlete with notable achievements in four areas of excellence - community, classroom, character and competition.
- Three student-athletes, Jason Vander Laan, Justin Zimmer and Samantha Johnson, were recognized as recipients of the GLIAC 2013 Meijer Commissioner's Award recipients.
- 84 Ferris State University student-athletes were recently honored by the GLIAC on its all-academic and all-academic excellence teams for the 2013 fall sports season. 46 students received All-Academic recognition, a cumulative grade point average of 3.0-3.49, on a 4.0 scale. 38 students were selected for All-Academic Excellence teams, recording a 3.5 grade point average or higher.
- The Club Tennis Team has won the Team of the Year Award for the Midwest, and represents the region with a bid to the National Championship. Newlyn Wing, the team Captain/President, won the Midwest Club Leader of the Year Award.

**Spring Break**

Next week is our Spring Recess. If you are traveling during this time, please do so safely. This has been a very challenging 2014 in terms of weather. However, after by far the coldest, snowiest winter in recent memory, hopefully we are indeed heading toward warmer weather.

The period after spring break is the busiest of the academic year as we look to wrap up the work of the year. As we move rapidly toward commencement, I look forward to continuing to share information about achievements, funding legislation and other developments that impact our students and their success.

Thank you,

David L. Eisler, president