

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
December 14, 2015

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## **Commencement**

Fall Commencement ceremonies are planned for this Saturday, Dec. 19. If you know a student or student-worker who will be receiving a diploma at Commencement, please take a moment to congratulate them. We are saying farewell to a class of Ferris students, but at the same time greeting a new class of Ferris alumni. While it is true we never get a second chance to make a first impression, we also don't get a second chance to make a final impression. Please do all you can to make this a memorable experience for our graduating seniors.

It has become a tradition for me to highlight some stories of individual student achievement. While I wish I could relate the stories of all of our graduates, I have found that telling one or two stories of students who have excelled at Ferris, and/or overcome significant hurdles to graduate reminds everyone of the very human dimension of this ceremony. Especially for those students who are the first in their families to earn a degree, this is a very important moment not just for them – but for their extended family as well.

The ceremonies are in Wink Arena, beginning at 10 a.m. for the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education and Human Services, and College of Engineering Technology; and again at 1:30 p.m. for the College of Business and College of Health Professions. Commencement is the highlight of our students' time at Ferris, so it is a very moving and emotional experience. As a valued member of the Ferris community, you are always welcome to attend. If you need tickets, please contact our office at ext. 2500.

## **Pancakes with the President**

This evening is our annual pancakes event for our students. It starts at 10 p.m. in The Rock dining facility and is co-sponsored by Student Government and Dining Services. I enjoy this opportunity to interact with our students in the midst of final exams as they finish the semester. It is also one of the final chances for us to say thank you to our graduating seniors and wish them well. If you would like to assist, please contact Elaine Kamptner or Terri Cook at ext. 2500. Whether you are helping this year or have done so in the past, thank you on behalf of our students.

## **Holiday Receptions**

Please note the dates for our holiday receptions. The Grand Rapids reception is on Tuesday, Dec. 15 in the W.N. Ferris Building Room 217, and the Big Rapids reception on Wednesday, Dec. 16 in the University Center Room 202. Both events are from 4-7 p.m. I hope you can take a few moments to visit with friends, colleagues, and members of our communities. I look forward to seeing you there.

## **Holiday Schedule**

With the final week of the semester and exams, the university will close for the holidays at the end of the Wednesday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> workday. Ferris will reopen on Monday, Jan. 4, 2016. If you are travelling for the holidays, I hope that you will do so safely.

Thank you for all of your hard work during the fall semester. I hope that your holidays bring time for relaxation and visiting with friends and family. Please accept my best wishes for a holiday filled with joy and a new year that brings new challenges, new rewards and new horizons.

David L. Eisler, president