

New Faculty Welcome:

The School of Education welcomed Professor Melissa Thiebaut Marinelli, M.A. in August 2018. In addition to teaching Early Childhood Education coursework, she is the Early Childhood Specialist for the Ferris Early Learning Center Great Start to Readiness Program (GSRP) classroom.

Professor Marinelli has 30 years of experience in Early Childhood Education including work in Early Head Start, Head Start, and GSRP. She has experience as a literacy coach, Head Start training coordinator, and family service worker. In addition to teaching and directing an early childhood center, she has been a trainer for the Northwest Regional Resource Center focusing on early childhood education.



Professor Marinelli

Faculty Activity:

- Dr. Dave Alban spoke at CLAC's Leadership Conference 2019 at Ferris on March 3. The title of the presentation was Building a Legacy of Leadership.
- Dr. Mike Ennis presented at the Michigan Career Education Conference in Grand Rapids, Kahoot and Technology Processing Tools - Expanded
- Dr. Mike Ennis and Michelle Kelenske, MSCTE, also presented at the Michigan Career Education Conference about Pro-Mo-TED: A Solid Route to CTE Teacher Certification. ProMoTED is a program designed to offer working students a unique opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Education degree in Technical Education and/or possibly Secondary Certification. Students complete the Professional Education course sequence within 12 months using a blended instructional design that includes intensive direct instruction, online education, and project-based learning. All courses are offered in a one-credit module.
- Nicole Erickson M.S. continues to progress toward completion of her dissertation. The title is The culture of early childhood teacher education: Exploring stakeholder perceptions regarding undergraduate student field experiences within a university lab school.
- Dr. Amy Kavanaugh presented at the International Literacy Assoc. Conference in Austin, TX July 2018. The poster presentation was about the Academic Service Learning collaboration with Delphine Defever at Riverview Elementary in Big Rapids Public Schools.
- Dr. Katherine Manley is leading the curriculum and credentialing development process for the RV Technical Institute (RVTI) in Elkhart, IN. The RV Industry Association (RVIA) received a large endowment to construct a technical training school, called the RVTI, that will launch in early 2019. The goal of the RVTI is to solve the RV industry's shortage of trained technicians and implement metrics to track the RV customer experience. The institute's focus is on the creation of a world-class RV technician training curriculum by using industry subject matter experts in conjunction with professional curriculum developers and technical writers.
- Dr. Manley is working with subject matter experts in the industry to develop the curriculum to serve as a framework used by RVTI and other partner colleges and industries to ensure that teaching and learning is standardized, balanced, consistent and valued by industry. The curriculum will be contextual (highly hands-on), will be modularized for efficiency and flexibility, is totally industry drive, and integrates a unique, systems approach to instructional design. The process also integrates data driven improvement tools that include standardized assessments at various levels of the curriculum and includes a nationally-transportable certification.
- Dr. Vanessa Wyss and Dr. Brady Flachs presented at the National Field Experience Conference in Greeley, Colorado April 2018. The title of the presentation was The Extra Mile: Ensuring communication between field mentors and university professionals.
- Faculty and staff continue to prepare for CAEP Accreditation. Every fall a two-day curriculum retreat is held for the purpose of continuous improvement.



Faculty discuss student performance

Registered Student Organizations:

Child Life Students is an organization where future Certified Child Life Specialists can network and grow in their professional development. Last fall, members of our organization attended the Great Lakes Association of Child Life Professionals Conference at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. One of our members attended the 23rd Annual Mid-West Child Life Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. In the upcoming semester, our members will be looking to attend the 2019 Child Life Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois. Additionally, our RSO is planning to attend the 2019 Student Symposium at Concordia University.



FSU students at the
GLSCP Conference, Cincinnati, OH



Krista Bowles VP, Megan Schrotenboer
Treasurer, Kazia Cooper President, Cassidy Ellen
Community Service, Samantha Dillon Secretary.

The RSO, Association of Future Educators (AFE), has combined meetings with Kappa Delta Pi (KDP), an Education Honor Society. There are six executive board positions that include Taylor Davis, President of KDP, Tara Canda, President of AFE, Matthew Dake, Vice President, Kaitlin Robinson, Secretary, Olivia Pahl, Treasurer, and Sarah Korff, Public Relations Chair. The two RSOs work together to promote education throughout the community. Some events that we participate in include family nights at local elementary schools, reading within classrooms in local schools, and events at Ferris such as Relay for Life and the Big Event. AFE and KDP are always looking for ways to broaden our educational experiences and give back to the community by raising money for children in need of school supplies and books. Meetings for AFE and KDP are on Monday at 6:30pm in FLITE 135. Our next professional development is April 1st at 6:30pm in Flite 135 where we will have Matthias Stevens, Ferris Alum and second year teacher, speak about the first years of education. We welcome all education majors to our meetings!

Grant Update:

\$1 Million Invested in Ferris Education Students

The School of Education (SOE) at Ferris State University has launched a \$1 million project with the support of Select Student Support Services (4S) funding from the Michigan Talent Investment Agency/Workforce Development's King Chávez Parks Initiative (KCP). The mission of the Ferris and KCP partnership is to support academically and economically disadvantaged students. The partnership will focus on the development of LEAD by Design, a program to improve the retention and graduation rate of education students at Ferris. The LEAD by Design grant is facilitated by Dr. Andrea Kitomary, Student Retention Program Coordinator.

"With the generous 4S support we have received for our LEAD by Design initiative, we will improve the attrition rate amongst education students," said Dr. Arrick Jackson, Dean of the College of Education and Human Services. "It is our goal to become a leader in the development and implementation of strategies that help more education students finish their degrees."

Too many aspiring young teachers are dropping out of their degree programs. Two out of every five education students will fail to complete their degree within six years at U.S. colleges and universities. This is further exacerbating the teacher shortage affecting communities across the country. LEAD by Design will address this issue by exposing participating students to a diverse range of deeply engaging classroom and field experiences. Dean Jackson said the 4S support and LEAD by Design will help the School of Education live up to the vision of the university's founder, Woodbridge N. Ferris. "Mr. Ferris saw this school as a place that could make the world a better place. When we make sure fewer students fall through the cracks and, instead, go on to become leaders in their classrooms and communities, we're making major progress toward that goal."

Featured Alumni:

Elementary Education: Alexa Macy B.S. 2017

Last summer I made the decision to take a life-changing opportunity and move to Florida. I landed a job teaching 5th grade language arts and social studies on Marco Island. I teach at Tommie Barfield Elementary, which is 1 of 30 elementary schools in Collier County, but the only elementary school on the island! I have absolutely fallen in love with the “island life,” and definitely do not see myself leaving anytime soon. Tommie Barfield is one of the top schools in the county, and I was extremely lucky to land a job here. I love my coworkers and my school’s community, but most importantly I adore each of my students as if they are my own. They truly have made me a better educator and person.



Alexa Macy class of 2017

I am confident that Ferris State provided me with the knowledge and experience I needed to become a successful, impactful educator. From all of the field experiences, to my peers who became family, to the staff who did whatever it took to help me succeed, I would not trade my experience at Ferris for anything. Thank you, Ferris State School of Education for preparing me to enter this crazy teaching world. Forever and always proud to be an FSU alum – go Bulldogs!



Early Childhood Education: Ruth Bovard A.A.S., 2016, B.S. 2017

Ferris State University (FSU) provided me with the education and equipped me with the knowledge to be successful in my career after graduation. I received a Bachelor’s in Early Childhood Education with a Concentration in Child Life. I am currently a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) at Metro Health-University of Michigan Health, and Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. During my extra time I work at a childcare center as a sub in the infant, toddler, and early pre-school classrooms. All this was made possible because of the outstanding Education Program at FSU. The thing that I learned the most at FSU was that if the professors see your determination and effort, they will go out of their way to ensure your success. I always felt supported and encouraged along my Education and Child Life Journey. I am proud to be a Ferris State Alumni.

Secondary Education: T.J. Klein B.S. 2016

After graduating from Ferris State University in May of 2016, I accepted a full-time teaching position at Big Rapids High School. Since then I have been teaching Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Algebra II. I help coach the boys’ varsity ice hockey team and enjoy every second I can building relationships with students. I cannot express how awesome the community, staff, and students are in the Big Rapids School District. It feels like home to me and I am extremely thankful for that. I look forward to continuing my education and improving my career in the Big Rapids area. I believe Ferris State University prepared me to have a successful career in education. My professors were extremely helpful throughout my education and continue to be there. I have been asked to mentor current students in education, speak in classrooms, and write many letters of recommendation. FSU prepped me for these opportunities, which continue to make me a better educator. I am proud to say I am a Ferris State Alumni.



TJ Klein and team



Technical Education Summer Cohort

Technical Education:

The ProMoTED Program is run in cohorts which begins with an intensive two-week summer semester in a face-to-face format. The program continues in the Fall and Spring terms with course work offered in an online format and pre-teaching field experiences. Students then return to campus for another one-two week intensive summer session for additional face-to-face course work. Once students have completed all other requirements for graduation they will then enroll in their directed teaching experience along with a seminar to complete their degree requirements.

If you are a graduate of the School of Education and have good news about your professional work to share, please contact Dr. Amy Kavanaugh at amykavanaugh@ferris.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.