

**Academic Affairs
2012-2013
Major Initiatives**

Academic Leadership Team Development

The 2011-2012 academic year was marked by the selection of five new deans and the continued search for a sixth (Michigan College of Optometry). Dean Stephen Durst (College of Pharmacy) and Dean Scott Garrison (FLITE) have assumed their duties as deans. Dean J.K. Yates (College of Engineering Technology) and Dean Rick Kurtz (College of Arts and Sciences) will start by July 1, 2012; Dean Matthew Adeyanju (College of Health Professions) will begin by July 15, 2012. Establishing these permanent deans in our colleges, along with the implementation of changes in the Office of Academic Affairs, are critical components in the development of a leadership team for Academic Affairs for the foreseeable future.

Partnership Development: An Institute Model

Our colleges have been presented with numerous requests to engage in healthcare, manufacturing and K-12 partnership opportunities. Academic Affairs views many of these opportunities as beneficial for our students as they can provide enhanced academic and career opportunities while simultaneously creating positive relationships between our colleges/university and community organizations. In 2012-2013, Academic Affairs will develop a comprehensive and coordinated effort to manage these partnerships. An “Institute Model” will be written and implemented so that our engagement in these partnerships is both organized and unified.

Student Success and Student Debt

We remain engaged in efforts to retain and graduate our students while increasing our focus on reducing student debt. In 2010-2011, recommendations were produced by the Ferris Academic Affairs Graduation Group that identified a series of activities designed to promote increases in retention and thereby increases in graduation. For 2012-2013, the central efforts of Academic Affairs are to help students successfully move from one semester to the next, one academic year to the next and on to graduation. Each college within Academic Affairs will focus on their roles in promoting high academic standards by consistently using data on critical quality indicators to ensure that graduates have the skills to substantiate our claims of offering relevant, rigorous and career-oriented education. Colleges will also focus on providing students with engaged experiences and keeping students on track toward graduation and beyond while simultaneously developing models for reducing time to degree. The overall goals of these efforts are to create a unified approach toward and investment in increasing student retention and graduation while reducing overall student debt.

Focused College of Engineering Technology Strategic Planning

The College of Engineering Technology has engaged in first steps toward a strategic plan for the college and its programs. At the end of the 2011-2012 academic year, with direction from Academic Affairs, the college implemented a temporary organizational structure to position the college to engage in greater levels of external industry partnerships with increased autonomy at

the school and program level. Academic Affairs will focus strong efforts to support this college and their new dean as they continue to engage in strategic planning for their future success.

Implementation of Diversity Initiative: Center for Latino Studies

Bringing greater levels of diversity to our campus community continues to be a critical priority for Academic Affairs. For 2011-2012, Academic Affairs will support the development of a Center for Latino Studies. In March 2012, Ferris faculty, administrators and students came together with local community members and panelists from around the state of Michigan for a Latino Studies Initiative Retreat. During the retreat, discussion ensued regarding how to identify a way for the university to provide its students with educational, social engagement and leadership-development opportunities within the growing and vibrant Latino community. These meetings culminated in the idea of the Center for Latino Studies. Embracing and embodying Ferris' core values, the Center for Latino Studies will support collaboration, diversity, ethical community, excellence and learning. It also will provide meaningful opportunities for cultural interaction as diverse Latino and Latin American cultural heritages and traditions are explored, celebrated and engaged by Ferris and local communities. Establishing a Center for Latino Studies is an intentional effort on the part of Academic Affairs to enhance diverse relationships at Ferris.