

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE

January-February news & updates



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Charter Schools Office Welcomes New Associate Director

We are pleased to introduce our new Associate Director, Dr. Christopher White. Chris assumed the duties of Ron Schneider on January 6, 2021, upon Ron's retirement from his highly successful educational career.

Dr. White brings considerable educational and administrative experience to the Charter Schools Office. He has served as a teacher and athletic director for the Chippewa Hills School District; Middle School principal for Perry Public Schools; Superintendent of Crossroads Charter Academy; and Assistant Superintendent in Mt. Morris Consolidated Schools.

Among some of Dr. White's duties will be leading the School Support Team, responsibility for the mid-contract and reauthorization visitation processes,



Director's Opening Thoughts

Happy New Year! I trust that amongst the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season, all of you had an opportunity for some relaxation after these challenging several months. While we are all hopeful for a fresh start this New Year, I know all of us understand that there are still many challenges as we attempt to put the pandemic behind us over the course of the next several months.

As we begin this New Year, it is my pleasure to introduce our new Associate Director of Charter Schools, **Dr. Christopher White**. Please look for more information on Dr. White in this newsletter. Also, find an announcement on the 2021 Spring Briefing, which will be held virtually

and the monitoring of academy finances.

Welcome, Dr. White!

Upcoming Events

January 2021

School Board Apprication Month

March 9, 2021 - Virtual
19th Annual Spring Briefing

this year.

January is also School Board Appreciation Month, and we offer our sincere thanks to all of our members of the FSU-academy Boards of Directors for their dedication and effort. Please know how much we appreciate your guidance during the challenge of the pandemic, and for keeping students well-being first and foremost.

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Introducing the New Associate Director



Introducing Christopher White, the New Associate Director!

It is with great excitement that I write this letter of introduction as the new Associate Director for the Charter Schools Office at Ferris State University (FSU). I assumed my duties in this capacity as of January 6, 2021.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work with students and staff from all grade levels in varying capacities in both the traditional and charter school setting. I started...

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Academic Assessment Specialist Updates

Assessment News

Assessments Are Not The End

Far too often assessment results are viewed as an “end”. Schools take an assessment, look at the scores, and are either pleased or displeased. Then pack up the results and continue doing what they

have always been doing. Often getting the same results over and over. Albert Einstein described this as insanity.

One of the reasons the State of Michigan is...

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Compliance Auditor/Board Liaison Updates

January is National School Board Appreciation Month



This month is a time to reflect on the vital work school boards do and thank all board members for their unwavering commitment to their community and children. We recognize the contributions of these men and women and focus the attention on the crucial role of these unpaid public officials who make decisions that affect, influence, and direct the education of our children.

The Charter Schools Office sincerely thanks all board members for unselfishly contributing their time and talents. You volunteer countless hours and an immeasurable amount of dedication, thoughtful discussion, and grounded decision making to ensure that our schools are providing the best education possible for the children in the community.

COVID-19 Relief Reimbursements



Beginning in December, the Charter Schools Office started the distribution of the *COVID-19 Relief Reimbursement*. All FSU-authorized academies are receiving \$25 per student, based on the audited fall 2020 Student Count. Academies with 300 or fewer students enrolled received their reimbursement in a one-lump sum; for those with over 300 students, the payment was divided into two parts, the first payment in **December 2020** and the second in **February 2021**. The reimbursements, totaling \$227,000, are in recognition of the fiscal challenges that the pandemic has caused our academies this year. The funds can be spent as each of the Academy and their Board sees fit; however, recipients will be required to complete a brief form in Epicenter by the end of **June 2021**.

19th Annual Spring Briefing - Virtual

19th Annual Spring Briefing



Due to the pandemic, the Charter Schools Office has decided it would be prudent to hold the 19th Annual Spring Briefing virtually via Zoom, on **March 9, 2021**, from **10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Invitations containing a registration link will be arriving in your email in **February**.

Happy New Year, Bulldogs!



Our Mission

FSU Mission

Ferris State University prepares students for successful careers, responsible citizenship, and lifelong learning. Through its many partnerships and its career-oriented, broad-based education, Ferris serves our rapidly changing global economy and society.

CSO Mission

The Ferris State University Charter Schools Office focuses on student success and continuous improvement through quality oversight, professional learning opportunities, and relevant resources for its authorized public school academies.

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