

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE



May/June 2023 News and Updates

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When Ferris State University authorizes a public school academy, it is an endeavor to positively transform the life trajectory of the students who attend that academy. The Charter Schools Office holds as its most fundamental goal that all students be prepared for success in college, work, and life. Test scores and knowledge are important but are not enough to succeed in an ever-competitive and connected global community.

We believe that students must be able to apply knowledge to new situations, and to seek out new information through research skills and technological competence. To accomplish this, each academy must provide an environment to achieve academic excellence by delivering quality programming and instruction for the students it serves.

Thoughts from the Director



May is National Charter School Appreciation Month

This month, we celebrate charter schools. Michigan opened its first charter school in 1996. Since that time the movement has grown, and we now have 293 charter schools with approximately 150,500 students attending those academies (11% of Michigan's K-12 population).

There has and continues to be much opposition to charters here in our State, and I am often asked the question of "what makes charter schools better than the traditional schools?" For me, the question should instead be "how are all schools best serving students and family's needs?" There are many fine traditional schools in operation, and some that are struggling. Certainly, the same can be said for charters. It's a plain fact that some schools are a better 'fit' for certain students. Be it a traditional school or charter, we should be celebrating parental choice and the fact that regardless of which kind of school a student attends, their needs are being met, they are thriving and are meeting their full potential.



Charter Schools Week (CSW) is an annual project bringing together parents, board members, school leaders, and advocates from across Michigan to stand up for charter schools and students. CSW 2023 was May 8-12, 2023 and the Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) hosted Charter Day at the Capitol on May 10. Find out more about how you can get involved [HERE](#).

25 Year Celebrations

The Charter Schools Office celebrated its 25th anniversary this year, and we want to recognize five academies that have been along with us since the ride began:



- ***Benton Harbor Charter School Academy*** (Choice Schools Associates)
- ***Creative Technologies Academy*** (Self-Managed)
- ***New Bedford Academy*** (Educational Partnerships, Inc)
- ***Northridge Academy*** (The Leona Group)
- ***Voyageur Academy*** (The Romine Group)

Congratulations to all of you and best wishes moving forward.

Transitions

We now live in an era when change is a constant and is accelerating at an ever increasing rate. In organizations we celebrate people for their longevity and contributions, and understand that people's needs, wants, and desires also change over time. Here at the CSO we have a couple of people who will be making transitions to other opportunities, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them and recognize them for their efforts over the years and wish them well:



Dr. Phyllis Robinson, Field Representative and Woodbridge Promise Program Coordinator

Dr. Robinson's last day as a Field Representative with FSU CSO will be June 30, 2023. She has agreed to stay on as Coordinator of the Woodbridge Promise Program through August. We greatly appreciate all of her hard work and dedication to Ferris State University and the Charter Schools Office. She has been and is an amazing asset that we will miss dearly.



Dr. Chris White, Associate Director

Dr. White had assumed a number of duties during his time at our office and has built a number of relationships with our Board of Director members and school leaders. He will be truly missed. At the same time, we wish him well as he embarks on his new journey in the charter school world at the John Engler Center for Charters and Central Michigan University.

Extending My Retirement Date...

As most of you know, Dr. White's departure also comes on the heels of the announcement of my intent to retire at the end of June. Please be advised that I have extended my retirement date to the end of August 2023, at which time we will reassess where the CSO Director search is to determine if more time is needed before my departure.

It is important for you to know that even with the upcoming transitions the CSO will continue to offer the services it always has and will continue to support the FSU academies in the manner we have over the years. The strong relationship between the Ferris CSO and all of you is of the utmost importance, and I wanted to assure you that relationship will remain intact until we can successfully transition to new CSO leadership.

I look forward to our continued work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R' followed by a stylized flourish.

Ron Rizzo

Contact:
Dr. Ronald Rizzo, Ph.D.
Director of Charter Schools
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Associate Director News

Farewell Message from Dr. Christopher White

Dear Colleagues,

I have had a wonderful experience serving the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office, but it is time for me to take on a new adventure. My last day at the Ferris State University CSO will be May 12. I have enjoyed so much working with all of our stakeholders – school leaders, educational service providers, and board members. Thank you for your collaboration and collegiality. I wish you all the very best in the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher White



Leadership Convening May 10, 2023

On May 10, 2023, Ferris State University Charter Schools Office (FSU-CSO) hosted its final Leadership Convening scheduled for the 2022-2023 academic year. The convening was held at Crowne Plaza



Lansing West in Lansing, MI. There were 20 participants from 13 different academies in attendance to listen to the keynote speaker, Vashaunta Harris, Impact Coach, and founder of V. Harris Enterprises, LLC. Ms. Harris is a native of South Carolina who is incredibly passionate about helping organizations with equity challenges. V. Harris Enterprises is an equity-focused consulting firm that partners with districts, schools, nonprofits, and businesses to analyze their current environment, design performance and/or equity goals, and engage in strategic coaching with those closest to the goals in order to achieve goals and place equity in action. To learn more about Ms. Harris and V. Harris Enterprises, click [HERE](#). Please contact AndreaRuggles@ferris.edu, if you have questions or need additional information on any of our Leadership Convenings.



Compliance Auditor/
Board Liaison Updates

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Budget Hearing and Adoption of the 2023-2024 Budget

Pursuant to Michigan law, the Board has the responsibility of reviewing the budget presented, holding a public hearing, modifying the proposed budget as necessary and adopting it for implementation prior to the beginning of the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Since next year's budget must be board-approved by June 30, 2023, boards will hold the public hearing in May or June. The public must receive notice of the budget hearing. The law requires the notice to be published in a local newspaper at least 6 days before the hearing. The notice shall include:

- Date, time and location of the budget hearing and
- Where a copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection.

Some boards hold the budget hearing at their May meeting and adopt the budget at their June meeting. Other boards prefer to hold the budget hearing during the meeting in which the budget will be adopted. Either way is permissible.

On the Board's agenda under "New Business" will be the budget hearing for next year's proposed budget. There will need to be a motion, support and vote to suspend the rules for a public hearing. Once that is formally done, there will be a presentation of the proposed budget. Board members may ask questions, seek clarification and discuss. The Board President will formally ask for public comment regarding the proposed budget.

After there are no more comments or questions from the board members and after public comments have been heard, there will need to be motion, support and vote to end the budget hearing and resume the regular public meeting.

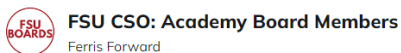
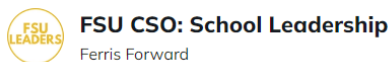
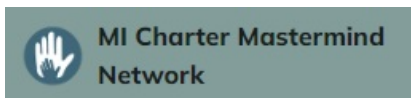
The Board is required to approve, by resolution, the FY2023-2024 Original Budget for the General Fund and Any Special Revenue Fund by June 30, 2023. Within 15 days after the board adopts its annual operation budget for the following year, and after any subsequent amendments to that budget, the budget must be posted on the school's website under Transparency Reporting.



School Budget

- Supports the mission, vision and values of the school
- Serves as a financial plan for the year
- Outlines spending priorities and resources needed
- Focuses on advancing academic achievement long term and supports the organizational goals

Reminder to join the Mastermind Network and FSU CSO Hubs



The Mastermind Network is an online community hosted by the Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA). It is digital community built to connect charter school educators from every corner of the Mitten, bridging physical distance to foster conversation, collaboration, problem solving and professional development. Within this site, you will find Ferris State University Charter Schools Office two private hubs, one for school leadership and the other for board members. The hubs look similar to a private Facebook group. To join, please click on [Mastermind Network](#). From there you can join the FSU CSO hubs. On our hubs you'll find recorded professional development sessions, updates on legislation that affects public education and/or board governance, CSO Board Communications and other important information.

We encourage you to join the Mastermind Network and FSU CSO Hubs.

From All of Us in CSO

Enjoy the remainder of your school year and have a great summer!



Our Mission and Vision Statement

Ferris State University 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.

Charter Schools Office Vision Statement

FSU will authorize public school academies that promise to transform the lives of students by demonstrating high-quality performance.

Charter Schools Office Mission

By implementing quality oversight, the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office focuses on student growth and achievement, offers professional learning opportunities, and provides relevant resources to its authorized public school academies.

Core Values

1. Student Learning
2. A Collaborative Working Environment
3. Diversity
4. Opportunities
5. Excellence
6. Accountability
7. Integrity and Trust

Contact Us

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**Visit our
Website**



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