

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE



November/December

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.



**Happy Anniversary
Michigan Charter
Schools!**



Happy Anniversary Michigan Charter Schools! December marks 30 years since then Governor John Engler signed Michigan's charter school law. This law gave parents new options for choosing what school their children would attend, and dramatically changed the landscape of the Michigan K-12 landscape. Today there are just over 300 public school academies (charter schools) operating in the State. Please see the related article further below on the CREDO Study that describes the overall state of charter schools in 2023.

I would also like to update you on the ongoing CSO Director Search. Reviews of applications began the week of October 23. In the meanwhile, I have extended my retirement date to December 22, 2023. I am committed to ensuring that we have a smooth transition in leadership for the new Director, and we will keep you apprised of the process.

Lastly, I would like to wish all of you a very happy holiday season on behalf of all of us at the CSO. I hope that all of our stakeholders have an opportunity to spend some time with friends and family and get some much needed R&R over the holiday break in December. Take care!

Peace,

Ronald S. Rizzo, Ph.D.
Director

Competitive Grants



The CSO is once again pleased to offer competitive grants to FSU-authorized academies. This year we are offering a total of \$300,000 for those projects or school initiatives that may not be able to be funded in the general budget.

Hurry-applications are due to Epicenter
November 10, 2023.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and an application.

Grant awards will be announced in late November with funds released in December.

Personnel Update

Our School Support Specialist, Laura Emshanov, has left the Charter Schools Office to work for the Kent Intermediate School District. As I noted in the last newsletter, Laura had worked at the CSO for ten years as both a Field Representative and in School Support initiatives. She will be missed; however, we are happy for Laura and wish her well as she embarks on her new journey.

We are in the process of taking applications for a School Support Specialist and a Field Representative to take over her assignments. If you know of anyone you would recommend for either of these positions, please direct them to the [Ferris State University Employment](#) site or have them apply for the positions here:

- [School Support Specialist/Cyber Education Monitor](#)
- [Field Representative](#)

Contract Performance Reports Released

The CSO has released the 2022-2023 Contract Performance Reports (CPRs). These reports are individualized for each academy and include detailed information on compliance, governance, student achievement, and finance. Your Field Representative will be reviewing the report with the Board of Directors at a meeting soon. If you did not receive a copy of your academy's CPR, please reach out to AndreaRuggles@ferris.edu.



Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) Study



In June of this year, The Center for Educational Outcomes at Stanford University released their third study of the state of the charter school movement in the country. Representing 3.7 million students attending charters, here is a brief synopsis of their findings:

- The typical charter school student in the national sample had reading and

math gains that outpaced their peers in the traditional public schools (TPS) they otherwise would have attended.

- Student Benefits:
 - Black and Hispanic students in charter schools advance more than their TPS peers by large margins in both math and reading.
 - Multiracial, Native American, and White students show equivalent progress to the TPS peers in reading but had weaker growth in math.
 - Asian students showed similar growth to their TPS peers.
- Charter students in poverty, English-Language learners had stronger growth than TPS peers.

While it is clear that there is still much work charters need to do, the study finds many positive correlations to student achievement and growth. Here is a link to the full CREDO study titled: [As a Matter of Fact: The National Charter School Study III 2023](#).

National Charter School Study III 2023



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Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

As a public institution, the academy and its Board of Directors are subject to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). As such, your board has a board policy regarding public records and has appointed a FOIA

Coordinator. For further FOIA details, please refer to your board policy and the [Freedom of Information Handbook - Michigan Attorney](#)

[General Dana Nessel](#). For specific guidance regarding FOIA, the Board President may want to consult with the board's attorney.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT HANDBOOK



ATTORNEY GENERAL DANA NESSEL

Additional copies available at michigan.gov/ag/foia

2023-2024 Board Professional Development Webinars

Mark your calendar for the second live webinar, *How to Engage in Legislative Advocacy*, in our 2023-2024 board professional development series, *The HOW TO'S of Board Governance*. It is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 6:00pm – 6:30pm. Board members can look for an email invitation from AirWin Educational Services with registration information. This webinar will focus on the active role board members can play in the political arena supporting their schools and charter school education in Michigan.

To the right, you'll see links to the on-demand webinars, as well as the recorded September webinar.

PLEASE REMEMBER - Each board member that attends a live webinar or watches an on-demand webinar can earn one professional development credit for their respective board. To earn the credit the board member will share their 2-3 takeaways about the webinar at a board meeting. Boards are required to complete three credits per academic year by two or more board members.

How to Become An
Effective Board President

Transparency
Requirements: HOW TO...
Ensure Your Board is
Complying

Board Recruitment
Strategies: HOW TO...
Recruit Board Members
Effectively

Board/School Leader
Relationship: HOW TO...
Ensure a Positive Working
Relationship With Your
School Leader

Using Board Policy to
Inform Decision Making

Board's Appropriate Role in
Parent/Community
Complaints

If you have questions or need additional information on any professional development, please reach out to SharonHopper@ferris.edu.



Choose to practice Gratitude every single day, it will change your life in ways you never expected. There is always something to be thankful for!

From All of Us in CSO

Thank you for making a difference in the life of a child. We are grateful for all of you and wish you all a happy and safe holiday season!

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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Ferris State University is an equal opportunity institution. For information on the University's Policy on Non-Discrimination, visit ferris.edu/non-discrimination.

**Visit our
Website**



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