

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE



March-April 2025

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.

Messages from our Director

Academy Authorizations and Reauthorizations

We are pleased to announce recent reauthorizations and new academy approvals by the Ferris State University Board of Trustees.

Reauthorizations:

- **Lighthouse Academy** (authorized in 2008) - The Board approved a seven-year reauthorization through June 30, 2032.
- **Michigan Connections Academy** (authorized in 2010) - The Board approved a seven-year reauthorization through June 30, 2032.
- **Northridge Academy** (authorized in 1997) - The Board approved a seven-year reauthorization through June 30, 2032.



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Authorizations:

- **Pillars Academy (Southfield)** - The Board granted a five-year conditional authorization (PreK-12) through June 30, 2030.
- **Learn4Life Pontiac** - The Board approved a five-year conditional authorization (grades 9-12) through June 30, 2030.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

Messages from our Associate Director



2025 Summer Leadership Conference

**Balancing Leadership,
Balancing You**

July 22 - July 23, 2025
DoubleTree Hotel
Bay City, MI



Margaret Baker

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2025 Summer Leadership Conference Balancing Leadership, Balancing You

DoubleTree Hotel

Bay City, MI

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 (4 p.m. - 8 p.m.) - Networking Event

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 (7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.) - Speaker Sessions

The Ferris State University & Lake Superior State University Charter Schools Offices are offering a **FREE** two-day conference for networking, learning, discussion, and fun! [Neil Ihde](#) from [LifeIQ](#) will be the keynote speaker, and the Bay City Drama Group and Voyageur Academy Dance Group will perform.

Incentives to attend:

- The FSU CSO will pay for six SCECHs for attending academy leaders*
- The FSU CSO will reimburse each academy that attends the full conference for one hotel room and mileage*
- Grant opportunity for all FSU authorized academies that attend.**

*FSU-Authorized academies only

**Click the grant guidelines button below for more information.

Don't wait to [register](#)! Click [here](#) for our event flyer.

If you have questions, please contact Margaret Baker (margaretbaker@ferris.edu).

[Grant Guidelines](#)

[Hotel Reservation](#)

[Event
Registration](#)

Title IX Recommendation

In a recent email from NCSI, it was recommended that academies continue to implement policies that comply with the 2020 Title IX regulations, including the Institute's Policy and Administrative Guideline 2266.

We recommend that academy boards hold off on rescinding or suspending the new Policy/Administrative Guideline 2264 that many adopted in recent months, as well as removing any text from Policy/Guideline 2266, which limited its application to complaints alleging conduct occurring prior to August 1, 2024, as other ongoing court cases and pending transition to the new administration in the White House may impact this decision or the 2024 regulations.

Training and response to complaints and allegations of discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of sex should focus on the 2020 Title IX regulations.

Admissions Event for Seniors

Graduates of Ferris-authorized

academies may be eligible for automatic admission to Ferris State University and a \$3500 scholarship. This is made possible thanks to Ferris' Momentum Endowed Scholarship and Enrollment Program.

The CSO has been working directly with school leaders and guidance counselors at academies with grades 9-12 to spread the word about this opportunity.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The scholarship is only available to students attending FSU full-time as an undergraduate student, taking classes online and/or in-person
- Students must be graduates of a public school academy authorized by FSU
- Students must have a minimum 2.35 GPA at the time of application

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Baker (margaretbaker@ferris.edu). You can also contact the school counselor at your respective academy.



Messages from our School Support Specialist

Professional Development Information: NWEA Data Dig Professional Development Available

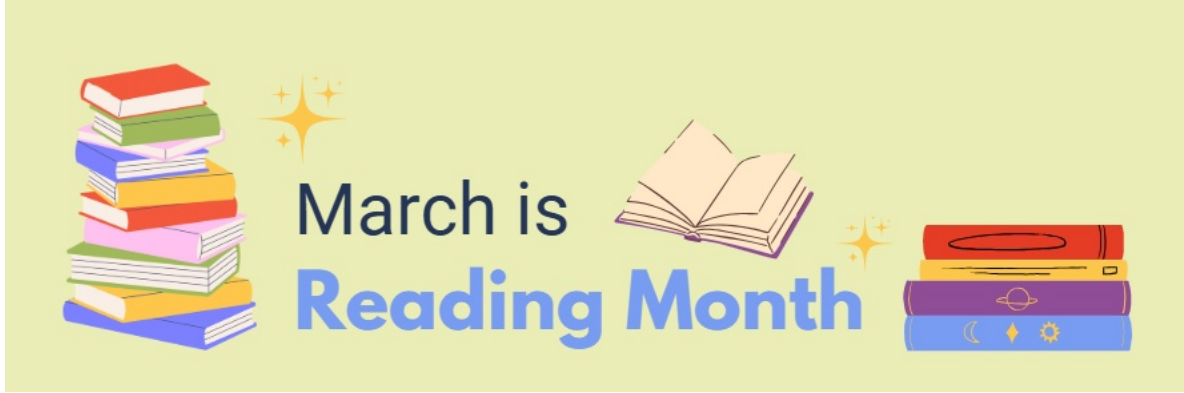
The Charter Schools Office still has five virtual professional development hours available for academies to use before the end of July!

School leaders may sign up for an individual 1-hour data dig with up to 5 people. These sessions will be held with an NWEA trainer who will walk your group through your winter or spring test results.

Sign up for your session today by emailing Amber Ahmad at amber.ahmad@nwea.org



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March is Reading Month: Inspiring Young Minds to Embrace the Joy of Reading

March is a month that brings with it a wave of excitement and opportunity as we celebrate Reading Month. This special time of the year is dedicated to fostering a love for reading among students and highlighting the importance of literacy in their educational journey. As school leaders, you play a crucial role in creating an environment that encourages students to explore the magical world of books.

The CSO has provided several swag items to schools to be used for incentives and prizes. We would also like to extend our services to reading in classrooms. Please contact your field representative or contact Beth Taylor (beth.taylor@ferris.edu), and we will do our best to schedule a reader.

[Click Here to Read More](#)



Charter Day @ the Capital

Charter Day at the Capital will be held on May 6, 2025. Come out and join members of the Michigan charter school community for a day to celebrate and highlight the power of innovation in education.

There will be a K-12 student art contest, social media takeovers, and a chance to advocate for the future of education. We encourage groups of students to attend and sign up to perform as well!

Schedule:

- 10:00 a.m. — Registration, check-in, and student performances

- 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. — Capital Steps program featuring guest speakers and student performances
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. — Lunch on the capital lawn with more student performances

Registration closes April 25th at midnight. If you have any questions, send an email to mapsa@charterschools.org.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Messages from our Compliance & Governance Specialist

Enhancing School Board Performance: Quick and Impactful Assessment Opportunities

Effective school board governance is essential for student success, school improvement, and long-term stability. Yet, how often do board members take the time to reflect on their board's effectiveness and the performance of their Educational Service Provider (ESP)? To support this critical aspect of leadership, we are introducing two streamlined, high-impact surveys designed specifically for public K-12 school boards:

- The Board Effectiveness Self-Evaluation
- The Survey to Evaluate the Effectiveness of the Educational Service Provider (ESP)

These surveys are designed to be quick, meaningful, and beneficial for every board. Each survey consists of only 10 multiple-choice questions and takes less than five minutes to complete.

If your board is interested in being administered these surveys, please reach out to your field representative.



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Specialist
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[Click Here to Read More](#)

Other News

Charter Students Attend FSU vs. WSU Basketball Game



On February 27, 2025, some of our charter students traveled to the Wayne State University Fieldhouse in Detroit to watch the Ferris State Bulldogs take on the Wayne State Warriors in two back-to-back basketball games.

Participating academies included:

- Bridge Academy
- Clara B. Ford Academy
- Michigan Collegiate
- Voyageur Academy

The Charter Schools Office enjoyed sponsoring this after-school activity, and we look forward to sponsoring many more trips and activities in the future.



Photos courtesy of Michigan Collegiate.

We hope the students and chaperones had a good time.



FSU CSO

Website Update

<https://www.ferris.edu/charter-schools/>



FSU Charter Schools Office Website Update

The FSU Charter Schools Office has recently completed a major update of our official website.

The following can now be found on our website:

- Academy Homepage
- Academy Reports/Performance Data
- Annual Portfolio Report (APR)
- Board of Directors Resources
- CSO Newsletters
- Academy Application Materials

Please take a moment to look over the attached document for more information. Click [here](#) to visit our [website](#).

[Click Here to Read More](#)

Announcing the 2025 Creative Technologies Academy Commencement Speaker

We are honored to celebrate the graduation of the Creative Technologies Academy Class of 2025 on Friday, May 16, 2025. This milestone event is a time to recognize the dedication and achievements of our students as they step into the next chapter of their lives.

CTA is thrilled to welcome Dr. Bill Pink, President of Ferris State University, as the 2025 Commencement Speaker. Dr. Pink is a passionate educator and leader who has dedicated his career to advancing student success and expanding opportunities in higher education.



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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