

A Seat at the Table

October 2017

- The State of Michigan awarded Ferris State University a grant to provide an Independent Living Life Skills Coach for foster youth attending the University. The grant allots \$115,960 per year, for three years. Janette Ward and Nicholas Campau were the lead grant writers. The grant is a great benefit to students in the Ferris Youth Initiative program.
- The Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) is organizing a campaign against stereotypes called #NoType. This campaign provides an opportunity for the University community to share their experiences of being stereotyped and the importance of challenging stereotypes. Visit the UC Rankin Atrium from 12 to 3 p.m. on October 17-19 to participate in this campaign.
- OMSS invites the campus to its upcoming “Conversations on Race: Unpacking Racism & Privilege,” October 24, at 6 p.m. in the University Center, Room 203. The guest speaker will be Rita Walters, Assistant Professor of Social Work, at Ferris State University. [Download the event flyer here.](#)
- The Office of Housing and Residence Life Harmony Project, Residence Hall Association and the OMSS are sponsoring a screening of the film *Get Out*, Monday, October 30 at 7 p.m. in North Hall, Room 145. The film is Rated R. There will be a discussion after the film, and light refreshments will be provided. [Download the event flyer here.](#)
- The Día de los Muertos annual Indigenous Workshop and Celebration will take place Wednesday, November 1 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the West Campus Community Center. The event is sponsored by the Center for Latin@ Studies, English and Literature and World Languages Departments, the Hispanic Student Organization, the Spanish Club, and OMSS. [Download the event flyer here.](#)
- The Liaison Committee for Students with Disabilities is showing the documentary *Best and Most Beautiful Things* at 6 p.m. on Oct. 17 in IRC

115 as part of Disability Awareness Month. After the screening, organizers will Skype with the film's director, Garrett Zevgetis, and Michelle Smith, the subject and star of the documentary. You can learn more about this uplifting story and other Disability Awareness Month activities at ferris.edu/disabilityawareness.

- Maggie Walcott (the chairperson) and all the members of the planning committee for Disability Awareness Month have done outstanding work. The University community is invited to attend a panel discussion, “disABILITY: Debunked Capstone Forum,” on October 31, 11 a.m., in UCB 202C. RSVP to MaggieWalcott@ferris.edu by Monday, October 23rd.
- Many of the University's most significant diversity initiatives were initially funded through the Faculty/Staff Mini-grant program. For example, during the first week in October, the grants were used to sponsor several festivals. On October 4, the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival was celebrated in the IRC Connector. The event featured traditional foods and arts, along with music and entertainment. A few days later, students lit the sky with floating lanterns. On October 5-6, the Sukkah, a temporary hut constructed for use during the weeklong Jewish festival of Sukkot, was on campus and visited by students and staff. The display was accompanied by an event called “Treats In The Hut,” where community members gathered to eat and celebrate the harvest. Traditional harvest treats such as pumpkin and apple pie were served. October 5 is the day of the Hunter's Moon, which is one of the times that Harvest is celebrated in many Native American and indigenous cultures.
- Please join us in thanking the Faculty/Staff Mini-grant Committee: Fran Rosen, Anil Venkatesh, Franklin Hughes, Anuli Njoku, and Cinthia D. Vander Sloot. The Committee worked hard during the summer to revise the application process. To learn more about the Faculty Staff Mini-grants please visit <http://ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/DiversityOffice/oncampus/minigrant.htm>.
- Congratulations to the 52 students who completed the Promesa Summer Success Program in Grand Rapids, Holland, and Oceana County. The students completed nine credits in Mathematics, Reading and College Skills. Five of the students are attending Ferris this fall.

- Barry Hall led the effort to get a grant award for the Center for Latin@ Studies pre-college program, Promesa Avancemos, a collaborative initiative that helps middle school students explore careers in Health Sciences and Engineering. Extended Learning Opportunities Network in Grand Rapids awarded the grant.
- The Center for Latin@ Studies welcomes Andrés Chavez, grandson of civil rights activist Cesar E. Chavez, on Wednesday, Oct. 18, from 3 to 5 p.m. in IRC 131. The younger Chavez grew up participating in rallies, picket lines and demonstrations advocating for civil rights and immigration reform. He will focus on how millennial-age Latino men and women have the power to be the voice of change in the 21st century. A Q&A session with him will follow.
- The Women's Advocacy Forum held its fall assembly meeting in conjunction with a tea party to celebrate Helen Gillespie Ferris' birthday on September 7, 2017. Contact WAF@ferris.edu for information about the Women's Advocacy Forum and future Forum events.
- DeeDee Stakley, Director of the Office of Transfer and Secondary School Partnerships, is one of five women selected to participate in this year's cohort of the Senior-Level Leadership Shadow Program established by the Michigan ACE Women's Network. Now in its second year, the program allows mid-level women aspiring toward senior-level positions to learn from mentors, gain diverse institutional perspectives, and develop knowledge and skills.
- The Women of Color Collaborative (WOCC) of the Michigan ACE Women's Network will hold its annual luncheon, "Moving the Needle: No Limits," on the campus of Western Michigan University on November 10, 2017. The keynote speaker will be Judi Brown Clarke, Diversity Director for the National Science Foundation's Bio-Computational Evolution in Action Consortium (BEACON) Center at Michigan State University. Contact Leah Monger (591-2947; LeahMonger@ferris.edu) for more information about attending the event, including carpooling.
- In November, PM Press is releasing a book from David Pilgrim, *Watermelons, Nooses and Straight Razors: Stories from the Jim Crow Museum*. This is a sequel to *Understanding Jim Crow: Using Racist Memorabilia to Teach Tolerance and Promote Social Justice* (PM Press, 2015). The Jim Crow Museum has a new docent, Cyndi Tiedt. She is doing

outstanding work. Portraits of the Ferris/Hampton students are displayed in the Arts & Sciences Dean's Office, the IRC foyer, and the Jim Crow Museum.

- The Diversity and Inclusion Office is working on the annual Diversity at Ferris report. It should be accessible to the University community mid-November.
- Thank you to all the people who worked with the Diversity and Inclusion Office to conceptualize, research, and plan for the creation of an LGBTQ+ Resource Center. Among those who helped: Lindsay Barber, Kylie Piette, Nicholas Campau, Mark Schuelke, Angela Palmer, Angela Roman, Matthew Chaney, Angela Garrey, Elise Gramza, Cindy Horn, Kevin Carmody, Dawn Fox, and Jeanine Ward Roof. A special shout out to the Student Affairs Diversity Committee, under the leadership of Joy Pufhal, and an ad hoc committee from the Social Work Program, led by Charlotte "Lotte" Halm. The Center, to be located in UCB 120, should be up and running in early Spring 2018.

A Video to Watch

In this video, Donovan Livingston delivers a speech at the School of Education's convocation at Harvard University. Donovan, a master's graduate at the university, used spoken word and produced what the institution called, "the most powerful, heartfelt speech... you will ever hear."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eUl4gF0ED4>