

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Legacy of Diversity and Inclusion



The first class of Big Rapids Industrial School in 1884 consisted of ten men and five women, with both Woodbridge and Helen Ferris being the school's first teachers. The aim of the institute was to provide educational opportunity for all people, and the Ferris' practiced that in word and deed.

2021-22 FOUNDERS' DAY CALENDAR

Ferris State University History Task Force



HASTE TO RISE

A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE OF
BLACK EDUCATION DURING JIM CROW

DAVID PILGRIM AND FRANKLIN HUGHES
PREFACE BY DAVID EISLER

A Remarkable Experience of Black Education during Jim Crow

Between 1910 and the mid-1920s, more than sixty black students from the South bravely traveled north to Ferris Institute, a small, mostly white school in Big Rapids, Michigan. They came to enroll in college programs and college preparatory courses—and to escape, if only temporarily, the daily and ubiquitous indignities suffered under the Jim Crow racial hierarchy. They excelled in their studies and became accomplished in their professional fields. Many went on to both ignite and help lead the explosive civil rights movement. Very few people know their stories—until now.

Haste to Rise is a book about the incredible resilience and breathtaking accomplishments of those students. It was written to unearth, contextualize, and share their stories and important lessons with this generation. Along the way we are introduced to dozens of these Jim Crow-era students, including the first African American to win a case before the U.S. Supreme Court, Belford Lawson, the lead attorney in *New Negro Alliance v. Sanitary Grocery Co.* (1938), a landmark court battle that safeguarded the right to picket. We also meet one of Lawson's contemporaries, Percival L. Prattis, a pioneering journalist and influential newspaper executive. In 1947, he became the first African American news correspondent admitted to the U.S. House and Senate press galleries. There is also an in-depth look into the life and work of the institute's founder, Woodbridge Nathan Ferris, a racial justice pioneer who created educational opportunities for women, international students, and African Americans.

Haste to Rise is a challenge to others to look beyond a university's official history and seek a more complete knowledge of its past. This is American history done right!

This book is available for purchase at PMPress, Amazon, or through the Jim Crow Museum.

Ferris State University History Task Force

The History Task Force seeks to preserve and commemorate the history and traditions of Ferris State University. Formed in 2002 to plan the celebration of W.N. Ferris' 150th birthday, the committee continues work to recognize significant events in the University's history.

Find us on 
facebook.com/FerrisHistory

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AMES, HENRY A.
Chihuahua, Mexico
First Year College; Pre-Engineering; Kollege Klub
"Mexico is a long ways from Big Rapids."



J. W. VALDEZ
Junior
Catholic Club
Arequipa, Peru,
South America



R. M. ...
San Juan, Puerto Rico



Emilio Vaz
Arequipa, Puerto Rico



RAFAEL ...
Cardenas, Cuba
Take life easy while you may.



ANTONIO L. ...
Anapim, Peru, S. A.
"A man of the world"
Catholic Club
Engineers' Association



JUAN ...
Potosi, Bolivia
"He was expect great things from there."




LOUIS H. ...
Quito, Ecuador

According to the 1903 Ferris catalog, Latino students have been at Ferris prior to 1900. Images from early yearbooks also reveal that students from multiple Latin countries have been a part of the Ferris community from nearly the beginning.

The creation of the Latino Studies office in 2012, demonstrates Ferris' continued commitment to Latino students. The mission of the Center for Latino Studies is to increase Latinx completion rates by informing the holistic student experience, maximizing equitable educational outcomes and career readiness through advocacy, community partnership, and culturally responsive academic, career, and personal development.


Other initiatives such as the Promesa program, Latino Business and Economic Development Center, and Plaza Roosevelt, have helped increased the presence of Ferris State in Latino communities across west Michigan.





September 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Founding of Big Rapids Industrial School, 1884	Founders' Day Drop/Add ends (closes at 5pm)		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Labor Day (no classes)	Birthday of Helen Ferris, 1853	Bulldog Bonanza			Patriot Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			First Day of Autumn			Homecoming Dedication of the W.N. Ferris statue, 1983
26	27	28	29	30		

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N.C. Hanks

Disability Services

Our institution's history has always been about inclusion—and although it's not widely known, that legacy includes persons with disabilities.

We know that Mr. Ferris would read excerpts to students at morning exercises from many different authors. Authors such as W.E.B. Dubois and Booker T. Washington, but he also read from Henry Fawcett's *A Beacon for the Blind* and from N.C. Hanks' autobiography, *Up from the Hills*. In fact, Mr. Ferris was so moved by the story of N.C. Hanks, who had lost both hands and eyes in a mining accident, that he brought him to campus on a number of occasions and considered him a good friend.

As Governor of Michigan, Mr. Ferris established institutions for treating tuberculosis and epilepsy, and authorized state funds to be used to build the first School for Crippled Children in Michigan in 1916. Mr. Ferris was also a supporter of the Reed School for Defective Speech therapy in Detroit. He sent a number of students and professionals to the school.


Through his efforts, Woodbridge N. Ferris created an environment within The Ferris Institute that encouraged our students to have a spirit of compassion and idealism.

The office of Educational Counseling and Disability Services (ECDS) continues that legacy at Ferris State University. ECDS facilitates access for students with disabilities by determining reasonable and appropriate accommodations as well as proactively working to influence all environments at Ferris State University.

W. Masselink Provides Special Facilities

West Masselink has the best facilities for rehabilitation students on campus. Residents have participated in the College Bowl, and have proved themselves to be more than capable in carrying on the academic battle the best offered.


All residents participated in various activities that were initiated by the dorm council under the guidance of their house parents, Mr. and Mrs. Doody.



West Masselink Are Capable Contenders

West Masselink, which has the best facilities for rehabilitation students on campus, also put together a football team made up of rehabilitation men. This was a first for the campus.

The men of West Masselink also participated in basketball, the United Food Store, State Council, and their general demeanor to be very capable contenders.



Flirting WITH DISABILITY

YOUNG STATE UNIVERSITY
LIAISON COMMITTEE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES PRESENTS

WED. OCT. 10
DOORS OPEN 11:00 AM
FALLS AT 11:15 AM - 1918
AT FALLS HOUSE B.

DO NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THE LIAISON COMMITTEE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. WE WILL BE JOINED BY A SPECIAL GUEST. WE WILL BE JOINED BY A SPECIAL GUEST. WE WILL BE JOINED BY A SPECIAL GUEST.

Companions in the Quad


The Liaison Committee for Students with Disabilities and Disability Awareness Month presents

AN EVENT OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED ASSISTANCE AND SERVICE ANIMALS

October 24, 2019 | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL STUDENTS, PLEASE BRING LEASED & FRIENDLY ANIMALS ONLY. WAGS MUST BE PICKED UP OR YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
More info on the event
Contact: [Name]
Contact: [Name]



October 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Dedication of the Carillon Tower, 1968 Columbus Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Mid-term grades due	19 Dedication of Alumni Building, 1929	20	21	22	23
24	25 Spring Registration Begins	26	27	28	29	30
31 Halloween						

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Native Americans

In the Battle of Midway during World War II, the Navy air unit, Torpedo Squadron 8, lead an attack against Japanese forces in the Pacific Ocean. This attack by the squadron was a turning point in the war. Unfortunately, all the planes were shot down and only one pilot survived the mission. The unit was recognized with the Presidential Unit Citation award. Torpedo Squadron 8 was led by John Charles Waldron, a Ferris Institute graduate. Waldron, who perished in the mission, was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his role in the battle.

Waldron was a proud Lakota and has been known more recently as the "South Dakota Warrior." Waldron is one of the many indigenous students who have a home at Ferris, in the past and in recent times.







Ferris has also produced many advocates for Native American rights. Byron Brophy, the 5th President of Ferris Institute, was the superintendent of Indian Education in Flandreau, South Dakota prior to his role at Ferris. Brophy's advocacy work and writings for Native rights were presented before the United States Congress.

Today, Professor Scott Herron and the Office of Multicultural Student Services lead many efforts to recognize and celebrate the indigenous culture on campus and in the surrounding areas.



November 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Ferris State College renamed Ferris State University, 1987	2	3	4 Fall Grad Fair Last day for "W" grades (full semester)	5	6
7 W.N. Ferris elected as a State Senator, 1922 Daylight Savings Time Ends	8	9 Career and Internship Fair First appearance of the Bulldog mascot, 1979	10	11 Veterans Day	12 Virtual Career and Internship Fair	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving recess begins (classes dismiss at noon)	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27
28	29 Thanksgiving recess ends (classes resume)	30				

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Religious Diversity

A much-loved student activity at the Ferris Institute was the Students' Bible Class taught by Gerritt Masselink from 1897 until his death in 1929. Organized as a student club, the members met each week to hear interpretations of the Bible read by Mr. Masselink. An interesting feature is that the student membership was composed of all sects, creeds and faiths including Jewish, Catholic, Protestant and Muslim students, as well as followers of Confucius and Buddha. A Detroit Free Press story featuring the club that appeared on February 4, 1922 touted this popular activity as "the largest students' bible class in the world."

Early religious student organizations included the Catholic Club, B'Nai ISRAEL (est. 1957), as well as a chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu (Sammies) fraternity (est. 1958).

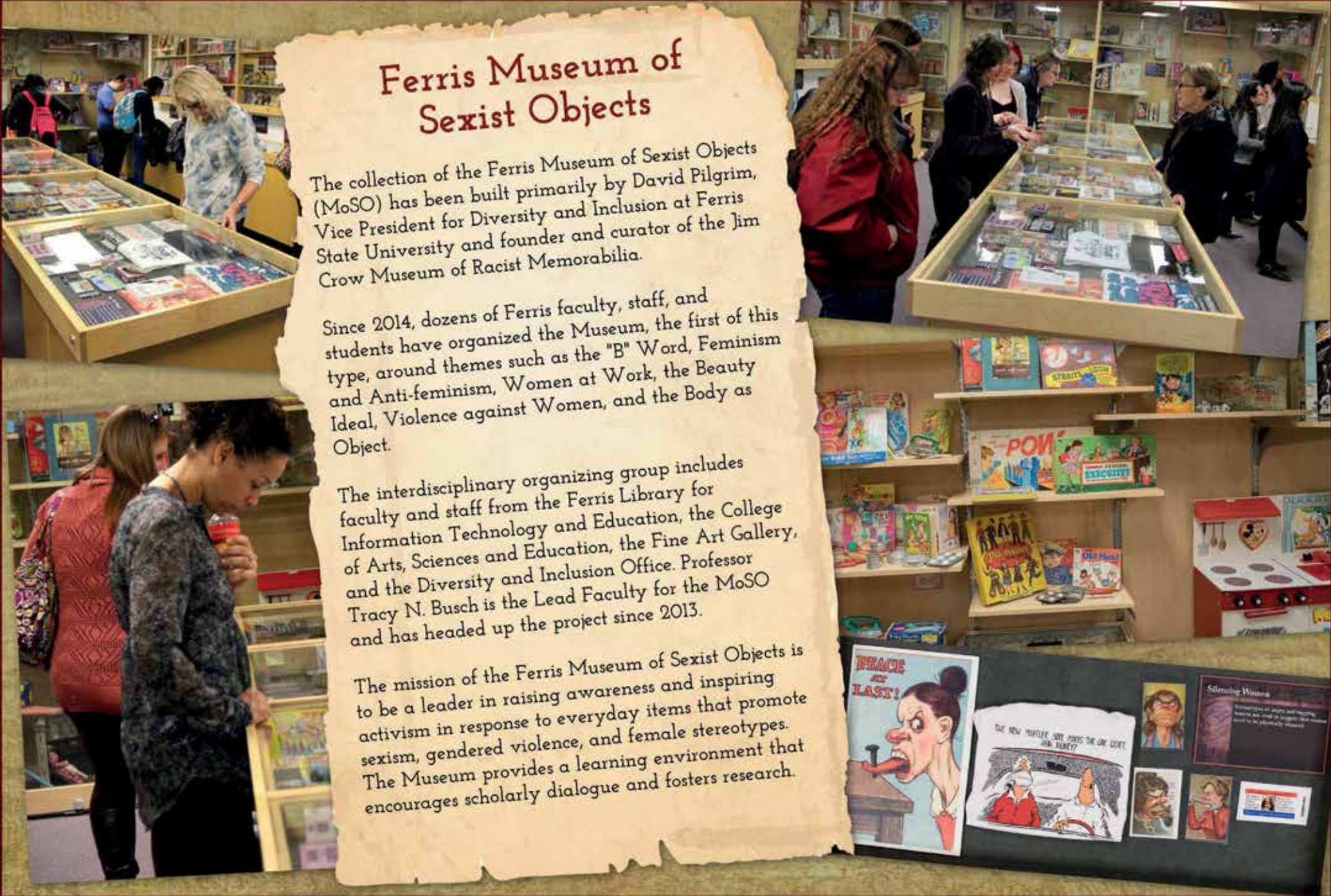
In the Autobiography of W.N. Ferris, Carlton Ferris described his father as being "entirely free from racial or religious intolerance." It is a tribute to Mr. Ferris that today all faiths are welcomed at Ferris.

Multiple faith-based registered student organizations (RSOs) are present on campus. In addition, Ferris' general education program offers coursework in culture, religion and philosophy through the Humanities department at the College of Arts, Sciences and Education.

December 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day			Last day of classes	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Examination Week begins				Examination Week ends	Commencement
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Final grades due by 1:00 P.M. Wintermester begins	First Day of Winter		Wedding anniversary of Woodbridge and Helen Ferris, 1874 All University Offices Closed	Christmas (Observed)	Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	31	
					New Year's Eve	

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January 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 W.N. Ferris First Inaugurated as Governor, 1913 New Year's Day
2	3 University Offices Reopen	4	5	6 Birthday of Wood-bridge N. Ferris, 1853 Late registration	7 Late registration Wintermester ends	8
9	10 First day of classes Drop/Add begins Wintermester grades due by 1:00 P.M.	11	12	13 Drop/Add ends (closes at 5pm)	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday (no classes) Summer Registration Begins	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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Ferris Institute News
Vol. VII, No. 11
The ox?
PHARMACY.
M. E. PICKENS, Editor.
What is the origin of suet, asked our instructor? The ox? No, sir, the cow.
Buy a fad tions.
The Mercu ingtoi
Fro pluck prett know
Ou othe muc take
A v It a eral fee
EXTRACTS
Bidlack's studio of fine arts.

Early African Americans At Ferris

Within the first 15 years of the Ferris Institute, African American students have been a part of the fabric of the institution. Prominent African American leaders such as John E. Bush and Edgar McDaniel, (leading members of Booker T. Washington's National Negro Business League), send their sons to the Ferris Institute. Chester E. Bush and Edgar McDaniel Jr. both earned business degrees from Ferris in 1905.

Famed early "Negro League" baseball star Nate Harris also has a connection with Ferris. Harris, enrolled as a student while playing and coaching the 1902 and 1903 Ferris Institute football team and winning a championship in 1902. He was one of the earliest African Americans to coach at a predominately white institution.

Between 1910 and the mid-1920s, dozens of African American students from the South traveled north to Ferris Institute. They came to enroll in college programs and college preparatory courses. They excelled in their studies and became accomplished in their professional fields. Many went on to both ignite and help lead the explosive civil rights movement.

The story of these students speaks to the real commitment the Ferris Institute has always had at providing opportunities to all the students all the time. When most doors were closed to African American students during this time, the Ferris Institute provided an opportunity and became a springboard for many impressive careers and civil rights champions.








February 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Sports teams became the Bulldogs, 1931
Lincoln's Birthday

Old Main Fire, 1950
President's Day

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Distinguished Early Women Alumni

Ferris State has prepared and produced many thousands of distinguished women leaders, creators, and innovators since 1884. Mr. Ferris and the Ferris Institute have always been advocates for women's rights. Many women's suffrage champions, attorneys, and physicians have graduated from the Ferris Institute. Ferris has produced some significant women "firsts" when it comes to Law.

- Mabel Walker Willebrandt, also known as "The First Lady of Law," was the first female public defender in Los Angeles, California and the first women Assistant Attorney General of the United States.
- Theresa Doland was the first woman in Michigan to receive the Master of Laws degree and she was the founder of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.
- Amabel Anderson, lawyer and professor, advocated tirelessly for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and organized the Women's State Bar Association of Missouri.

These women, and countless others laid the foundation of excellence that we see from the numerous women who help make this institution function.

March 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
						Spring recess begins (no classes)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Mid-term grades due					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Daylight Savings Begins	Spring recess ends (classes resume)					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
First Day of Spring	Fall Registration Begins	Spring Grad Fair		Last day for "W" grades (full semester)		
27	28	29	30	31		

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P. B. MENDOZA.....Manila, P. I.



GARABED FARSAKIAN.....Cairo, Egypt



CATHERINE SCAFF.....Damascus, Syria
Y.W.C.A.



International Students

In a 1903-04 Ferris catalog, the institute boasted of the international presence at the school.

"During the past 10 years, the Ferris Institute has enrolled a large number of young men who came to America from some foreign country. Finlanders, Norwegians, Swedes, Danes, Hollanders, Germans, Armenians and Mexicans were among the number."

Students from all over the world have been a part of the composition of Ferris State University. This legacy has continued throughout the decades.

The International Festival of Cultures is just one example of the positive impact students from all over the world have had and continue to have on the Ferris community.



April 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
					Last day of classes	

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Life Workers Council

Age Diversity and Non-Traditional Students


Since the beginnings of Ferris State University, the school has always provided paths toward completion of education for non-traditional students. Education for all people "regardless of sex, race, age or financial situation" is what Mr. Ferris said and his institution has truly been that for many non-traditional students.

Mr. Ferris said in an undelivered address about adult education:

"Another feature of education that has been neglected is adult education. Education, as I have defined it, begins with the first breath of life and ends with the last breath. For 43 years, I have conducted a unique school. Not infrequently, fathers and mothers and sons and daughters have attended the school at the same time. In order to do this, they have been obliged to make real sacrifices. I mention this concrete example to show that when humans know that educational advantages are within their reach, they improve them."

Today, Ferris State has programs developed specifically for non-traditional students such as the Ferris Youth Initiative-Johnson Scholars, First Generation Students, adult learners, part-time students, veterans, and others.

Ferris is proud to be an institution that can meet the needs of a wide range of students.



College

Professional Accountancy

May 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Examination Week begins				Examination Week ends Commencement	Commencement
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Mothers' Day	Final grades due by 1:00 p.m.					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Late registration	First day of Classes Drop/Add Begins	Ferris Institute accepted as a gift to the State of Michigan, 1949		Drop/Add Ends (closes at 5pm)	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
	Memorial Day (no classes; all offices closed)					

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LGBTQ+

LGBTQ+ students have always been a part of the Ferris community, although historically difficult to identify, it is reasonable to conclude that many LGBTQ+ students have continuously been at Ferris.


In 2018, Ferris State University opened its first LGBTQ+ Center. This Center, located in the University Center, serves to foster a supportive environment that is open, safe, and inclusive for students of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

The Center's objective is to celebrate and affirm LGBTQ+ people, identities, and communities; to support the development of LGBTQ+-sensitive and -accountable personal and professional skills among the Ferris community; and to support and advocate for, and with, members of the LGBTQ+ community for an equitable, inclusive culture at Ferris State University that celebrates and values LGBTQ+ people.

June 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Juneteenth Father's Day	Juneteenth (Observed)	First Day of Summer				
26	27	28	29	30		

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Jim Crow Museum – Origins and impact

In the 1970s, Dr. David Pilgrim began collecting objects that were produced during the Jim Crow and Civil Rights periods. These objects defamed and belittled Africans and their American descendants. His collection grew as he collected racist objects from flea markets, antique stores, and other areas.

In 1996, Dr. Pilgrim donated his collection to Ferris State University where he created a classroom exhibit that was used as part of his Sociology courses. The collection was available by appointment only, so access to the objects was limited.

While the educational experiences offered within the classroom were valuable for students, Dr. Pilgrim and other University supporters believed that these objects should be accessible to the wider campus and the general public. In addition, these objects should be curated and displayed in a manner that encourages ongoing dialogue around issues of race, race relations, and racism.

In 2012, The Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia opened in a 3,500-square-foot space centrally located on the Ferris State University campus. The Jim Crow Museum's collection is the world's largest publicly accessible collection of materials and popular culture objects reflecting the history, consequences, and current iterations of Jim Crow-era racism.



July 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Ferris Institute became a state institution, 1950 Ferris Institute renamed Ferris State College, 1963	2
3	4 Independence Day (no classes; all offices closed)	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Last day for "W" grades (full semester)	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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Office of Multicultural Student Services

The Mission of the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) is to promote the intellectual understanding and appreciation of diversity, inclusion, and social justice by creating opportunities for learning and leadership development for our campus community. In addition, the office provides meaningful support to assist in the transition, retention, and graduation of our underrepresented student populations.

Students of color have always been a part of the Ferris community and the OMSS office is paramount in providing services and support to all students on campus. The office, which began as the Minority Affairs Office in 1986, provides excellent programs and events that not only meet the needs of multicultural students but also connect the broader campus to a multitude of diverse voices, ideas, and issues.



August 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Last day of classes			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Final grades due by 1:00 P.M.					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				Late registration	Late registration	
28	29	30	31			
	First day of classes Drop/Add begins					

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Diverse Speakers at Ferris

Mr. Ferris was inspired and driven by the many speakers he had heard in his youth. Speakers like Frederick Douglass, Henry Ward Beecher, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Victoria Woodhull left a lasting impression on Woodbridge and helped shape his worldview. After the Ferris established their school, they wanted to pass on opportunities to inspire the men and women who attended the Ferris Institute, thus Morning Exercises were created. Morning exercises as defined by Mr. Ferris himself:

"In these readings the lives and thoughts of many great men and women are presented. Every possible effort is put forth to awaken the students to a realization of their possibilities."

These readings exposed the campus to a wide range of diverse works and ideas. The campus has always been a place where diverse speakers have had the opportunity to speak. Famed activists like Naomi Tutu and Deloris Huerta have spoken on the Ferris campus. Politicians such as Jessie Jackson and notable orators Dick Gregory, Alex Haley, and Maya Angelou also graced the stages on the Big Rapids campus.

However, there was probably no one more famous and prominent than when Booker T. Washington spoke to a sold out, excited crowd in 1902 on the Ferris campus. Washington, the legendary Tuskegee Institute founder would later be eulogized by Mr. Ferris in 1915 who called Washington the "Prince of Educators."



FERRIS INSTITUTE JOURNAL.

THE F. C. A. MEETING.

The eleventh annual meeting of the Ferris Co-operative Association, held July 17 and 18, surpassed all others in the excellence of its program, its enthusiasm and its good fellowship. The meeting opened Thursday evening with a lecture by Booker T. Washington, President of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. Members, students, townspeople and visitors from neighboring towns crowded the Assembly Hall of the Ferris Institute to its utmost capacity. Friday's program was one of unusual interest and educational value. Papers and addresses were given by George Elliot Cooley, Grand Rapids; Miss Mattie Foster, Big Rapids; Perry F. Powers, Cadillac; A. J. Daniels, Grand Rapids; B. L. Nye, Traverse City; and Miss Hugh Thompson, Millersburg, Ky. The crowning event was the banquet for the F. C. A. members and friends given Friday evening in the new G. A. R. Hall.

September 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Founders' Day Founding of Big Rapids Industrial School, 1884 Drop/Add ends (closes at 5pm)	2	3
4	5 Labor Day (no classes)	6	7 Birthday of Helen Ferris, 1853	8	9	10
11 Patriot Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 First Day of Autumn	23	24
25 Dedication of the W.N. Ferris statue, 1983	26	27	28	29	30	