



—a Ferris State international education newsletter

## Ferris Forward: The Ubuntu Way:

Greetings from the Office of International Education (OIE). It is the time of year for holiday festivities and end-of-semester celebrations. It is also a time to reflect and look forward. The Ubuntu Mural unveiling event has provided us an opportunity to look back.

Eighteen months ago, in the fall of 2018, we started publishing biweekly OIE newsletters. The first issue was aptly titled “Looking back: Looking ahead.” In our first issue, we shared the idea of creating the Ubuntu Mural. We invited the University to join us to capture the idea of our interconnectedness through ourselves (selfies) to make sense of the larger purpose.

Since then, the biweekly newsletters have provided the opportunity to share with you the international work we have done in the last ten years, connecting the challenges of the University to the opportunities in forging an intentional comprehensive international plan that can prepare our University for a global economy and society. The final issue of this newsletter series and the year captures the essence of why we do international education. The reason is captured in the African philosophy of Ubuntu, which is the idea that my humanity is caught up and is inextricably bound up in yours.

The power of International Education brings to life to the idea of Ubuntu, hence, the Ubuntu Mural outside the Office of International of Education. It allows us to strengthen the ties that bind us. It gives us the opportunity to answer the most persistent and urgent question raised by Dr. Martin Luther King: What are we doing for others?

As educators, we do for others by sharing the joy of learning. Our hands-on practical education provides our students gainful employment, which uplifts human dignity. The education we provide also empowers individuals to see the interconnectedness of it all and prepares them to be informed citizens of our globalized world.

Our founders understood the interconnectedness as Mr. Ferris said: The World is one big family. Time and distance have been annihilated. National isolation is a thing of the past. If the vision of our founders guides us, how do we ensure that we unchain the limits of our aspirations? How do we remind ourselves that we are rooted in excellence, not limited by geography and narrow walls?

Embracing the idea of Ubuntu helps us to become better versions of ourselves. Each day when we walk by the Ubuntu Mural, it will remind us that we are interconnected, international, and inclusive. It will silently share the words of our founders that resonate with the forgotten ancient wisdom:

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**The world is one big family. -W.N. Ferris**

Let's welcome the New Year by recommitting ourselves to the vision of our founders. Let's work together in developing a comprehensive internationalization plan and move Ferris Forward globally, together.

Dr. Piram Prakasam  
Executive Director, Office of International Education



## In Context:

1. **Read:** [Further reading on Ubuntu - TED Blog - TED Talk](#)
2. **Watch or Listen:** [What I Learned from Nelson Mandela – Boyd Varty – TED Women, 2013](#)



## Moment in Time:



President David Eisler standing in front of the Ubuntu Mural. Dr. Eisler is standing in front of image of Cecilia Payne Gaposchkim, a British-born American Astronomer and Astrophysicist who helped us to realize that the what we find in the sun is what find in the stars, and hence, we belong to the stars.

*Ferris Forward*



# *Past OIE Newsletters*

## Fall 2019



Fall 2019 Issue 5



Fall 2019 Issue 4



Fall 2019 Issue 3



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## Summer 2019



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**Spring 2019**



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