

# A Seat at the Table

Updates from the Diversity and Inclusion Office  
March 2014

This issue highlights projects and initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion at Ferris State University.

- ✚ Please remember that annual diversity reports should be submitted to the Diversity and Inclusion Office by August 1, 2014. These reports should include material from January 2013 through June 2014. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call David Pilgrim at 231-591-3946.
- ✚ Congratulations to Kaylia Ervin, a Criminal Justice major and a member of the Ferris Youth Initiative, on her selection as an Intern in the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). The mission of CCAI's Program is to engage Members of Congress in reforming the U.S. foster care system by linking them with foster care alumni whose firsthand experience can serve as a road map for reform.
- ✚ Keep up-to-date -- **Like** the Diversity and Inclusion Office on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FerrisStateDiversityandInclusionOffice>.
- ✚ March is Women's History Month. The theme this year is *Global Women: A Focus on Diverse Roles of Women in Society*. This year's events are cosponsored by the Office of Multicultural Student Services, Ferris Women's Collection Steering Committee, Office of International Education, Delta Sigma Theta, Student Government, and WISE. For a schedule of events see: <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/studentlife/Minority/WHM2014.pdf>.
- ✚ Objects from the Ferris Women's Collection are on display in Williams Auditorium as part of Women's History Month. *What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up* looks at the differences between "girl toys" and "boy toys." The purpose of the exhibit is to challenge viewers to think about gender expectations and to examine how games, dolls, and other artifacts can affect how we view ourselves and others.
- ✚ On February 13, 2014, the Jim Crow Museum was featured in a special edition of *USA Today*. See: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/02/13/black-history-lesser-known-sites/5469271/>.
- ✚ Students in the Television and Digital Media Program are working with FSU students, faculty, and staff to create DVDs focused on the LGBTQIA

community here at Ferris. The DVDs will incorporate a variety of events and activities organized by the Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance (DSAGA) student group, and will be used to raise awareness and for education. This work is supported by a Faculty/Staff Diversity Mini-Grant.

- ✚ The Michigan American Council on Education (MI-ACE) Women's Network annual conference is seeking presenters. This year's theme is: *Make a Difference: Leadership, Inclusion, Connections*. The deadline for proposals is March 20; see <http://www.miacenetwork.org/>.
- ✚ Natalia Carvalho-Pinto is taking 20 Ferris students to the *Dia de la Mujer (DDL M) Conference*, to be held on March 14 at Michigan State University. The conference, first held in 1994, has grown into a series of workshops focusing on education, health, politics, relationships, culture, personal development, and self-empowerment for Latinas of all ages and backgrounds. *DDL M* is also an excellent opportunity for non-Latinos to learn about the beliefs, views, and ways of life in the Latino community. The Center for Latin@ Studies is helping to sponsor the students' trip to the conference.
- ✚ Jessica Cruz, Associate Director of the Center for Latin@ Studies, was appointed to the newly created Downtown Plan Steering Committee in Grand Rapids.
- ✚ Brian Baker, a sociology professor at California State University, Sacramento, who specializes in Native American Studies, visited Ferris on Feb. 24-26 to present *Imaginary Indians*. Dr. Baker discussed his collection of artifacts representing the American Indian as an imaginary figure that exists within popular culture. A portion of Dr. Baker's collection will be on display in FLITE Lower Level, outside the Jim Crow Museum, through March 28. Dr. Baker's visit was supported by a Faculty/Staff Diversity Mini-Grant.
- ✚ FSUdiversity published the video piece *I am Not A Thug*, created by Franklin Hughes and featuring FSU students. Breia Harris was Student Assistant on the project and coordinated most of the student appearances. Please be advised that the video has language that some people consider offensive. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1TuVPHieR8>.
- ✚ On February 22 the Office of International Education hosted *International Night at the Hockey Arena* for the third year in a row. This event combines introducing international students to NCAA Division I hockey with bringing international flavor and excitement to the Ewingleben Ice Arena.
- ✚ Matt Olovson, Director of Equal Opportunity, is offering a monthly *Anti-Harassment/Non-Discrimination Policy Seminar*. The one hour seminar is open to all Ferris employees and is designed to engage attendees with

examples of prohibited conduct and practical advice for compliance with the University Policy on Non-Discrimination and the Employee and Student Dignity Policy. The next seminar is Monday, March 24, at 9 am in FLITE 214. Email [equalop@ferris.edu](mailto:equalop@ferris.edu) or call 231-591-2152 to RSVP, for more information, or to request additional seminar dates.

- ✚ A Faculty/Staff Diversity Mini-Grant has been awarded to Educational Counseling and Disability Services to purchase mobile assistive technology, including iPads, Sky Smart pens, and Echo Smart pens. The equipment will be checked out to students, and used to enhance academic success.
- ✚ The Ferris Women's Collection Steering Committee has developed a mission for the collection: "to be an international leader in raising awareness and inspiring activism in response to everyday items that promote sexism and depict female stereotypes in American cultural forms. The collection will provide an environment that encourages scholarly dialogue and fosters research." Members of the steering committee are Karen Barkel, Tracy Busch, Jessica Cruz, Rachel Foulke, Franklin Hughes, Lisa Kemmis, Mari Kermit-Canfield, David Pilgrim, Fran Rosen, Carrie Weis, and Trinity Williams. In his 1906 Commencement Address, Woodbridge Ferris, said: "I am a radical advocate for the larger freedom of the women. I would not see her shut out from a single occupation."

**Diversity is not about being the same; it is not about walking alike, talking alike, worshipping alike, dressing alike, thinking alike, dancing alike, voting alike, debating alike, eating alike, looking alike; it is about being respectful of differences. Conformity is not diversity. Uniformity is not diversity.**