Ferris State University is in its second century as one of the nation’s premier technical and professional universities. Ferris provides practical, “hands-on” education necessary to make its graduates immediately employable in a diverse array of fields.

The institution was founded Nov. 4, 1884 by Woodbridge N. Ferris, a former Governor of Michigan and a U.S. Senator. His intent was to provide a practical education for any person with the motivation and potential to benefit.

Today, Ferris State continues to teach technical skills and applications focused on solving real problems, and produces a career-oriented work force that is prepared to meet the world of high technology.

The University offers more than 190 educational programs through the colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Human Services, Kendall College of Art and Design, Michigan College of Optometry, Pharmacy and Technology. The programs are designed to respond to the changing needs of manufacturing, business, health care and other industries and professions which are critical to Michigan’s economy.

With a student-to-faculty ratio of approximately 16:1, students at FSU receive the individual attention necessary to prepare them for their careers. Additionally, Ferris boasts a placement rate for graduates of 98 percent, one of the best in Michigan.

Students also have the opportunity to join nearly 200 student organizations on campus plus club, intramural and intercollegiate sports.

The scenic Big Rapids campus is located along the banks of the Muskegon River in the gentle rolling hills of west central Michigan.

Initially, Ferris was known as the Ferris Industrial School, but in 1899 the title was changed to Ferris Institute. It was privately owned and operated until 1931 when it became a non-profit, non-stock education corporation.

In 1949, Ferris became a state college, and the school was officially re-named Ferris State College in 1963 and Ferris State University in 1987.

**University President**

**Dr. William A. Sederburg**

Dr. William Sederburg has positioned Ferris State University for a promising period of significant change and growth.

The former Michigan state senator became the University’s 16th president on Aug. 1, 1995, after serving a year as interim president. Prior to then, he had taught at Michigan State University, served in the Michigan Senate, and was a vice president of Public Sector Consultants, Inc. of Lansing.

Under Dr. Sederburg’s leadership, Ferris State University has been transformed and is positioned to deliver its mission of serving as a national leader in career-oriented, technological, and professional education.

From the expansion in the number of academic programs, to an increase in enrollment, to a comprehensive capital outlay and facility renovation plan, the University has witnessed a renaissance in the short duration of the past half-decade. A University Web Policy and a comprehensive Ferris Digital Initiative have put Ferris State at the leading edge of higher education institutions.

Dr. Sederburg has been instrumental in gaining capital outlay funds and private sector support for an ambitious campus expansion and renovation campaign that has included such projects as the National Elastomer Center (1998), Student Convocation Center (2000), the Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education (2001) and the Center for Student Services (July 2002).

One of the more ambitious projects undertaken by President Sederburg has been the merger of Ferris State University and the Kendall College of Art and Design, a nationally renowned private art and design school located in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Active throughout the State and nation, Dr. Sederburg serves as chair of Cyberstate.org, a Michigan-based information technology advocacy group, and ArtServe Michigan, an arts advocacy council.

As a State Senator, Sederburg served the 24th District (Ingham County-greater Lansing area) from 1974-91, chairing the Senate Health Policy Committee and Senate Appropriation Subcommittees on General Government and Higher Education and Senate Select Committees on the Future of Higher Education and Tuition and Affordability.

He was FSC’s vice president for public policy and director of its Public Opinion Research Institute (1991-94), president of Survey Research Company (1974-91), executive director of the Michigan House Republican Caucus (1977-78), and director of research and programs as an education specialist for the House Republican Caucus (1977-77).

**Athletics Director**

**Tom Kirinovic**

Kirinovic coached the 1989 FSU softball team to a 17-15 overall record and its first winning season in six years. He also logged five years of coaching experience at Ovid-Elsie High School in Elsie, Mich., as a varsity assistant for football and basketball while also serving as head coach of the school’s freshmen and junior varsity baseball program.

Kirinovic, 47, received a bachelor’s degree in business education from Ferris in 1977 and a master’s in education administration from Central Michigan University in 1982.

A member of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA), Kirinovic also holds membership in the National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administration (NACMA) and currently serves on the Big Rapids Public School Board and the Ferris State University Alumni Board.

He’s a member of the Mecosta County Chamber of Commerce Ambassador’s Club and the Farmers Union, among other civic organizations.

Kirinovic presently serves as a member of the NCAA Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee and on the NCAA Great Lakes Region Basketball Ranking Committee.

Kirinovic and his wife, Marge, are the parents of two sons, Blake (21) and Matt (17). Marge is a teacher at Riverview Elementary in Big Rapids.