Ferris State University is in its second century as one of the nation’s premier technical and professional universities. Ferris State provides the education necessary to make its graduates immediately employable in a diverse array of programs.

The institution was founded in 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 workforce that is prepared to meet the world of high technology. The University’s academic 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.

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 renamed Ferris State College in 1963, and Ferris State University on November 4, 1987.

Ferris State University continues to build and remodel a number of campus buildings, including numerous athletic facilities. The result is high-quality facilities which benefit athletes, students and the Big Rapids community.

Encompassed among the many projects on campus was the renovation of the Health and Physical Education (HPE) Building, resulting in the creation of the state-of-the-art Student Recreation Center. Construction, which was completed in January 1999, resulted in four multi-use courts, a four-lane elevated track, two aerobic studios, a six-lane, 25-yard pool, a 13-person whirlpool, 40-foot climbing wall, fitness center, free weight room, locker rooms, class rooms and administrative offices.

The closure of Jim Wink Arena with the HPE Building and Convocation Complex, which shares an expanded lobby with the Ewigleben Ice Arena. In addition to the new lobby, concessions, pro shop and rest rooms, the Ewigleben Ice Arena features a 4,580 square-foot locker room which serves as the new home for the men's ice hockey program. Other Ewigleben Ice Arena improvements include a new expanded press box and hockey locker room for Big Rapids High School.

Construction of a softball field pressbox and the installation of a wood-surface floor for women's volleyball were completed in the summer of 2001 as was the $1.8 million state-of-the-art Wheeler Pavilion, a three-level pressbox with a suite level and a ticket office located on the west side of Top Taggart Field.