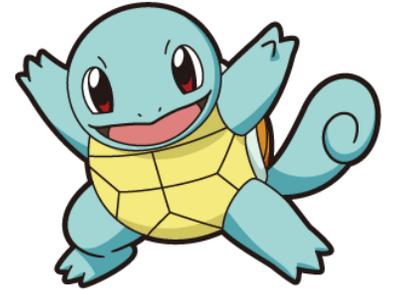


**Gotta Catch Them All!**

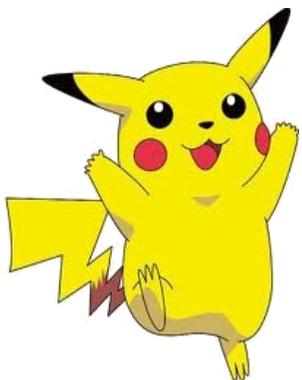
**Ferris State University  
Focus on Diversity**

Dear MORHA,

When one first looks at the theme that Ferris State University has chosen you may think why a childish cartoon, or something so strange? In reality the reason that Ferris State University has chosen Pokémon as its theme is the fact there are not only many different Pokémon, but even if a Pokémon is the same it has a different personality. Therefore the world of Pokémon is truly diverse. When a trainer sets out to become a Pokémon Master they have to not only catch different Pokémon, but to travel to different places to get them. In order to bring out the best in a Pokémon you have to get to know it, learn how you are different but similar as well, and for it to know its teammates in order to function, combine, and work together. To relate this theme to Ferris State University you can say that Ferris State University is the Pokémon Laboratory. Ferris State University trains its students/ future Pokémon masters to know that Diversity is one of the major things that we are based and focused on here at Ferris State University, but know it makes up an important part of our lives, but as well as our community. We believe that F SU and all the organizations of FSU promote, practice, and respect what diversity is. We believe



that diversity is regardless of color, nationality, creed, gender, sexual orientation, personal values, and beliefs. We know for a fact that Ferris State University is in full support of Diversity. At FSU we do not judge people on their life styles, beliefs, or looks. Instead, at Ferris State University we support the community to improve a person's goals, ability to reach for their dreams, and to become the best that they can be. Through the spirited attempts of the Ferris family, the promotion and demonstration of diversity is a common everyday occurrence. At Ferris, we express diversity through our many diverse programs and actions. Not only is Diversity a core value at Ferris but we believe that diversity is essential for providing a campus that is supportive, safe, and welcoming. This bid is constructed to show how differences and ideas that a person or a group may have come together to make campus a better place to live, learn, and experience. Just like Pokémon you want to gather a collection of different Pokémon in able to form the strongest team. If the whole world was just one type or black and white then there would be no exciting part to life; for a great Pokémon team is composed of many types of Pokémon.



With that being stated, we would like to say, come and experience what Ferris State University has to offer. So come and experience the variety of Pokémon at Ferris State University. Diversity is not just an objective, but a main goal.

Can you catch them all?

-Ferris State University Bids and Awards Team

## Relativity to the Diversity on the Campus

On campus there are many diverse Registered Student Organizations (RSO's) that promote various assortments of causes, activities, groups, and clubs. Here at Ferris State University our mission is to prepare students for successful careers, responsible citizenship, and lifelong learning. Through our many partnerships and career oriented, broad-based education, Ferris serves our rapidly changing global economy and society. Our core values are: Collaboration, Diversity, Ethical Community, Excellence, Learning, and Opportunity. We view these values as a vital part in school work, everyday life, and future career positions.

To make sure everyone is welcome, Ferris utilizes our ability to reach all people from different cultures, backgrounds, and those who have special interest in certain programs, through campus wide events. These events such as: National Coming out Day, Take Back the Night, Day of Silence, Martin Luther King Week (MLK Week), Get Acquainted Day; Sex and the College Student with Dr. Friar, also with the help from the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) and many other RSO's express to student body that here at Ferris, we are a diverse, and accepting university. Student life is welcome to join whatever RSO(s) that may correspond with their likings and qualities. Normally when events are coordinated, it is in the interest to bring those with similar awareness and beliefs together.

The programs and events, build the population and awareness of different views, qualities, situations and more. Events held on campus unite student life through merging different beliefs, and personalities, and having them engage in activities that force them to communicate with each other along with RSO's on campus. Some of the RSO's on our campus include; You Beautiful Black Women (Y.B.B.W.), Black Leaders Aspiring for Critical Knowledge (B.L.A.C.K.), Diverse Sexually and Gen-



## Statement of Diversity

When one asks what diversity is, people can tell them many things that they know about. However, according to Dr. David Pilgrim, the Chief Diversity Officer and a highly regarded person on Ferris's Campus, he states: "Diversity is not just the color of your skin, your gender or your sexual orientation. Diversity is the range of human differences and potential that manifests itself in members of a campus community." Then according to Courtney Brock, a student and also President of a Sorority here at FSU stated, "That diversity is not a difference in race, color of skin, or who your ancestors are. Diversity is differences in people's lives, cultures, beliefs, hobbies, moral values, ethnicity, or just anything in particular. For diversity, is something that demonstrates others uniqueness's that may differ from our own, but we still accept them due to the fact everyone has their own beliefs and values that differ from others. With that said Ferris State University is a campus that is centered, built, maintained, and influenced by diversity. Diversity may not seem important to some people but here at Ferris diversity is apart of maturing.

On campus we have many diverse Registered Student Organizations (RSO's), with some ranging from hall and student government, faith based, political, special interest, multicultural, and social/service just to name a few. RSO's put on many events held on campus. For example, You Beautiful Black Women (Y.B.B.W) has put on many different events aimed towards not just African Americans, but everyone on campus. Many of those programs include the Y.B.B.W. Fashion Show and Annual Women Conference. Another one D-SAGA is devoted to creating a safe and enjoyable environment for all people regardless of sexualities and genders. This year D-SAGA hosted National Coming Out Day, Day of Silence, Night of Noise, pride panels around campus, and more.

Located on the campus, is the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia (Jim Crow) at FSU is envisioned as an international leader in the anti-racism movements. The museum serves as a base for quality scholarship addressing the complexities of race relations. The museum encourages collaborative work with high schools, universities, government agencies, and human rights organizations, including, but not limited to, producing original research planning and hosting conferences and conducting anti-racism training sessions. The Jim Crow proves the sincerity in FSU's attempts to resonate words and actions of discrimination and equality against minorities.

Through and through Ferris State University is a university that does not just focus on the similarities its' students may have, but also the differences that makes each person unique in their own way. With that said Ferris State University is not only a university committed to class room education but also a university that is **COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY!** Some programs that some of the RSO's have put on are listed below.

# Pokemon Training Exercises: Program Evaluations

## Lunar New Year- The Year of the Hare

The Target population of this program was for Bond Hall which contains the largest hall population on Ferris State University Campus. Initially the 300+ members of the hall, and several other guests from across campus were invited to come celebrate the Lunar New Year and learn of the traditions that take place, and the importance of the new year to those of Asian descent. Altogether the program cost an estimated of \$200.00. The program had a great effect on residents who spent the rest of the night and days after playing traditional games, and talking with students about the program and to celebrate it again next year. This program was led by a committee of three people. Two RA's from Bond Hall as well as the President of the Asian Student Organization.

## Martin Luther King Week

This program was targeted to reach out to everyone campus wide as well as in the community of Big Rapids MI and surrounding areas. This program contained many smaller programs such as The Tunnel of Oppression, the Martin Luther King Day Commemorative March, Guest Speakers to campus, Issue Forums about diversity, as well as Trustee Snead of Ferris State University who is a Ferris Alumni as well as a key member of Civil and Equal Rights at Ferris during the late 1950's and 1960's on campus to promote diversity and equality between every student. This program was funded by many committees and cost only about \$800.00 due to the way everything was planned and donated. The program brought together many student groups as well as a new class that is being implemented this year COMM 390 which is titled Social Activism. The Instructor and class of 20 also had discussions about this event during class time, and spoke about activism and what it means to march and come together as one together.

## Black History Month

This program was implemented to the entire campus of Ferris State University. The Total cost for the month ran about \$2,000.00. Included in this month was a movie titled, "Brother Outsider". The movie was based on the life of the infamous gay African American Civil Rights Leader who followed and illustrated the same principles as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as well as one of the key leaders and planners for the Civil Rights Movement. This program also featured a variety of programs and events in not only the celebration of Black History Month but also exposed and educated the campus and community on issues relative to Black history. These events were held the entire month of February. This program brought about discussion as well as many small ones that continued after for a few weeks.



# Pokemon Training Exercises: Program Evaluations Continued

## Hispanic Heritage Month

During the month of September many groups across Ferris State University put on different programs to educate about the Latino/Hispanic Culture. One large act that was brought to campus was Tres Vidas, a phenomenal musical/theatrical production. Res Vidas which is a trio musical based on the lives of three legendary Latin American women: Mexican Painter, Freda Kahlo, Salvadoran peasant activist, Rufina Amaya and Argentinean poet, Alfonsina Storni. The musical play was written by Marjorie Agosin and directed by Matthew Wright. Along with Tres Vidas there were also special dining days in the campus dining centers. Included was a fiesta in the North Campus Quad that contained booths and activities one would take part in when celebrating a Hispanic holiday. This program averaged about \$3,000.00 after all co-sponsorships as well as donations. Many students participated as well as attended the many events provided.



## How Good is Your Gaydar

This program was put on by D-SAGA the Diverse Sexuality and Gender Allies. This group performed their program during the STARS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE that was put on by NRHH on Ferris's campus. This program was to educate students, and to show how you cannot truly tell if one is gay or not. This program cost nothing, and was targeted at those that attended the STARS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. This program was taken back by RA's from Brophy Hall and put on within a few weeks after and had great success.

Archie Bunkers Neighborhood

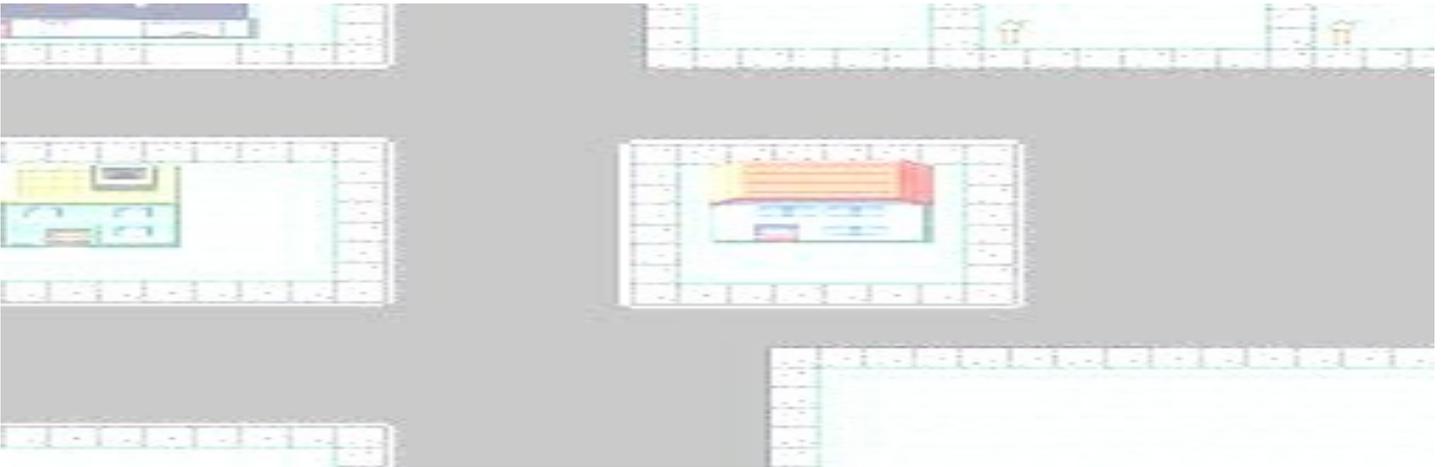
This program discusses about many social levels, cultures as well as racial identities. This program was done at the STARS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE and taken back to Cramer Hall by Nick Roy an RA in the hall. For this program the amount of money that was spent was \$28.00 for purchasing of Ice Cream and toppings. This program was put on by 3 RA's from Cramer, a resident that attended the STARS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE with Nick as well as guest appearances from the President of RHA as an acting member. This program was targeted at the entire population of Cramer Hall and had an attendance of 57 people involved and participating in the activity. The goals of this program was to educate on the many stereotypes that people associate with different groups of people, how some in society view them, and how they can change the way that people are being treated.



# Pokemon Training Exercises: Program Evaluations Continued

## Archie Bunkers Neighborhood

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These are just a few programs put on Ferris State University's campus. There are many more be them movies, talks, forums, or even guest speakers at campus.

As you have seen that Ferris is a great campus and one that embraces diversity. As you can see we are Catching them All and invite you to join in.

**March 4, 2011**

Dear MORHA Selection Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my experience of diversity at Ferris State University. Diversity on Ferris State is a topic taken very seriously and there are many intentional dialogues and programs happening on the campus to promote inclusive and exploration. It is for these reasons I write this letter of recommendation for Ferris State to be selected as the Diversity Award winner.

The institution has a comprehensive diversity statement to help promote inclusion and equality of all individuals on campus. This statement is the foundation for what the staff and student population program. There are many new initiatives on campus supporting diversity Ferris State has started or will be starting.

The Housing and Residence Life Department is opening a new international living learning program to help transition international students to the United States. We had our first STARS Leadership Conference where they had programs focused on diversity. MLK Week is a very well attended program and promotes discussion.

Through all of these activities and more Ferris State understands how important diversity education is to an institution. Staff and faculty want all students to feel supported and safe. Through the diversity statement and action of the members of this institution Ferris is well deserving of this award.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of recommendation.

Sincerely,

Joanne Robertson  
Hall Director  
Clark Hall  
Ferris State University

