

## FERRIS COVID-19 CASE COUNT

LAST UPDATED: SEPT. 28

## NEW CASES

10

## CUMULATIVE CASES

131

## ACTIVE CASES

18

# THE FACE OF A MOVEMENT

*The story of Breonna Taylor and the BLM Movement*

**Veronica Mascorro**  
News Reporter

193 days after the shooting, a grand jury did not indict the three officers responsible for Breonna Taylor's death.

Taylor was a 26-year-old emergency room technician who was shot and killed during a raid in her apartment on March 13 while she was in her bed.

The grand jury gave their ruling on Sept. 23, announcing that they would indict Hankison for three counts of wanton endangerment, which essentially means to engage in conduct which creates a substantial danger of death or serious physical injury to another person.

These indictments were not for the killing of Taylor, though, because the 10 shots he fired did not strike her. The charges instead were due to the shots he fired that passed through Taylor's apartment walls and into the neighboring apartment, endangering three more people.

The other two officers who fired shots were not indicted and no one was charged for Taylor's death.

"Honestly, it's very disappointing," nursing senior and women's basketball point guard, Adrienne Anderson said. "It's heartbreaking and it just shows the reality of the day and age we live in. I don't want to say much, but it's not fair. And I just don't understand how an innocent life can be (taken) and she just didn't get the justice she deserved."

"But, this is not surprising because it has happened time and time again. It's just disappointing. It's time for a change. There needs to be a change systematically. And I know that's cliché, people are saying it, but there's a lot of truth and reason behind that."

## The night in question

On March 12, a Jefferson County Circuit Court judge approved five search warrants for locations that included Taylor's address. Authorities believed that Taylor's ex-boyfriend, was involved in a drug ring and one of the locations where narcotics were being hidden was Taylor's apartment, according to an article by CNN.

A few moments after midnight on March 13, officers arrived at Taylor's apartment and began knocking on the door. During this Taylor and her Boyfriend Kenneth Walker III were in bed. Walker, who heard the commotion grabbed his gun, which he legally owned, out

of fear that people were trying to break into the apartment.

Officers Jonathan Mattingly, Brett Hankison, and Myles Cosgrove proceeded to use a battering ram to break in the door, which led to Walker firing a shot at who he believed to be intruders. Mattingly was shot in the leg which led Hankison and Cosgrove to return fire throughout the home, shooting over 20 rounds.

Taylor was hit multiple times and died in the shooting and Walker was unharmed. After making a 911 call, Walker was arrested and charged with attempted murder of a police officer. He was in jail for two weeks before being released on home incarceration. The Commonwealth Attorney Tom Wine later announced that his office would not pursue the case.

## How it fueled the BLM Movement

Taylor quickly became one of the faces of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) Movement that originally began in 2013, in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer George Zimmerman.

Despite being around since 2013, BLM has gathered a lot of traction behind certain cases throughout the years such as the murder of Mike Brown in 2014, and when Colin Kaepernick who started off by sitting on the bench and later on taking a knee during the U.S. national anthem to protest police brutality in 2016. This received a lot of backlash at the time and ultimately led to Kaepernick being blacklisted and essentially banned by the NFL.

The most recent traction that BLM received was when the video of George Floyd being killed by an officer from the Minneapolis police department was posted on social media.

As reported by BBC News, the video shows officer Derek Chauvin kneeling on Floyd's neck while he was being pinned to the ground. Transcripts from the police bodycam footage shows Floyd begging to the officer and telling them that he could not breathe.

Floyd even said "You're going to kill me, man" to which Chauvin responded "Then stop talking, stop yelling. It takes a heck of a lot of oxygen to talk."

Chauvin continue to keep his knee on Floyd's neck after he lost consciousness and did not remove it for a full minute and 20 seconds after paramedics arrived. For a total of seven minutes and 46 seconds, Chauvin kept his knee on

Floyd's neck, which became a symbol in many of the protests following his death.

The whole ordeal escalated after the police were called because the \$20 bill Floyd was trying to use at a convenience store appeared to be counterfeit.

People across the country became outraged to see another Black person die from police brutality. This led to protests being held across the country calling for police reform and that the officers involved in the case be held accountable. Many used the protests to raise awareness for countless other Black people who were killed due to police brutality who have not received justice, such as Breonna Taylor who had been killed 73 days before Floyd.

During these protests, the three officers responsible for Taylor's death were placed on administrative leave and then in late June, Hankison was fired for blindly firing 10 rounds into her apartment.

Two months after the shooting, Taylor's mother filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the officers involved and Louisville agreed in September to pay \$12 million to Taylor's family and enact several police reforms.

Activists believed that in comparison to Floyd's case, Taylor's case progressed very slowly. The officers responsible for Floyd's case were fired and charged quickly while it took months for Attorney General Daniel Cameron to present Taylor's case to the grand jury.

## How people have reacted

According to Courier Journal, after news of the grand jury's ruling spread, protests were held in Louisville. They soon spread across the country in Taylor's honor demanding justice for her, including Taylor's hometown of Grand Rapids.

Mlive reported about the protest against police brutality and racial equity organized and led by Taylor's two cousins Tawanna Gordon and Erica Eaves, hours after the verdict was announced.

About 200 people showed up to the protest to listen to Gordon and others speak.

"We are not going to go away," Gordon said. "It is not over."

Gordon called for others to get involved and take a stand along with them

"We need to be out here. We



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Assistant

need to be in a larger group. We need to have this whole city rallying for us, with us, because that's the only thing that's going to make change."

This sentiment has stayed true, protests in Grand Rapids have continued since Wednesday. According to an article by Michigan Radio, Aly Bates, president of the local group Justice for Black Lives, says they plan to continue to protest in the city each week.

Bates believes that the action of the Grand Rapids police department isn't enough.

"What I want to see is more action instead of talking about it," she said on Friday to Michigan Radio. "Because they keep talking, they keep coming out and kneeling with us, but I don't see anything actually being done."

Music and entertainment business senior Byron Brooks was initially sad, but not surprised when he saw the grand jury's decision to not indict the officers responsible for Taylor's death.

"History has shown us time and time again that our justice system is not designed to bring forth justice to Black Americans especially, Black women," said Brooks. "The

Attorney Generals excuses on why not to reveal the racial make-up of the grand jury made it obvious that there was a lack of diversity within it."

Brooks was also saddened to see that history had repeated itself.

"If you go back to the year 1955, on the very exact day, Sept. 23, Emmett Till's murderers were acquitted. That in itself shows you the lack of true growth of our countries justice system when it comes to how it serves justice or the lack thereof rather to black America," Brooks said.

BLM advocates feel that justice was not achieved for Taylor and question whether justice can be brought for her. Brooks believes that it can but not in the traditional sense.

"It is up to us as the people, activists, and agents of change alike to continue applying pressure to our public officials to transform their air into action and create equitable and just laws that dismantle systemic racism, promote racism, and ensure that what happened to Breanna Taylor never happens to anyone else again

**Taylor** | see page 3

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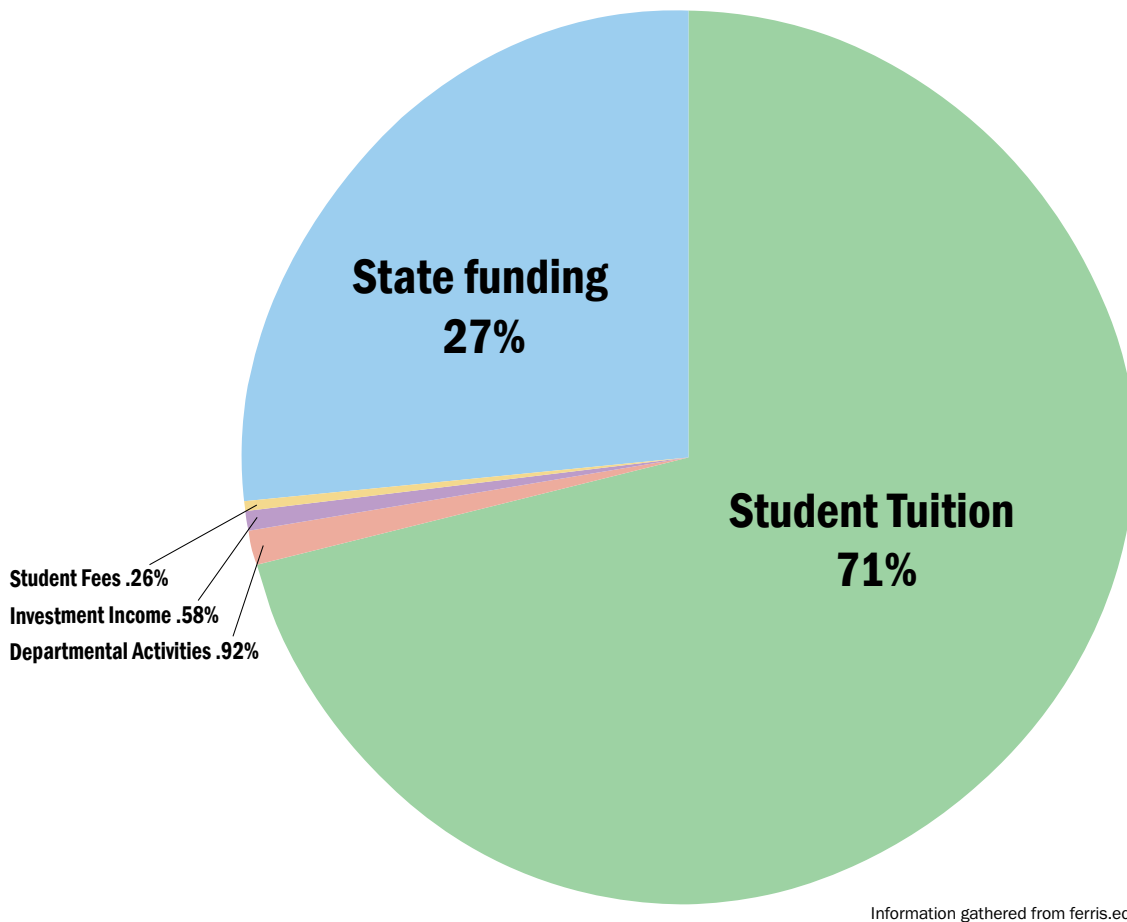
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Ry Rodriguez | News Editor | rodrir16@ferris.edu

# Where is your money going?

## FERRIS STATE GENERAL FUND



## Eisler's one-time bonus taken from General Fund, which is funded 71% by student tuition

**Veronica Mascorro**  
News Reporter

In an article published in the Torch on Sept. 16, it was reported that President David Eisler used most of his longevity incentive bonus to create a scholarship for future Ferris students.

In "Eisler's compensation package makes nationwide report" Editor-in-Chief Cora Hall reported that Eisler's total compensation for 2019 was \$819,000, which included a longevity incentive payment of \$338,000 that he was promised in 2012. Eisler, in turn, used \$350,000 of his one-time bonus last year to create The Norris and Irene Johnson Scholarship Endowment, a scholarship that helps orphans and foster care youth have the opportunity to attend Ferris in the future.

The Norris and Irene Johnson Scholarship Endowment was created in honor of his wife Patsy Eisler's adoptive parents. The donation was then matched by the Ferris Foundation, through the Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge, creating a total of \$700,000 for these potential students.

In a press release written last year Eisler discussed why they choose to start this scholarship.

"Patsy and I are deeply passionate about doing everything we can to give these students the hope and support to succeed and to make them feel welcome at Ferris, which, for most, is their only home," said Eisler.

However, Eisler did not discuss why they specifically chose to use his longevity incentive bonus—which was funded by the General Fund—to do so and did not respond to a request to comment on the topic.

Some students seem to like the idea of the scholarship.

"I think if he's using his bonus to give back to the school, it's nice for the community as a whole," professional tennis management freshman Abby Paramo said.

Clinical lab sciences senior Molly Oosdyke liked the scholar-

ship as well, but wished there was something more for current Ferris students.

"I think that the scholarship is a really cool thing because a lot of times these kids don't have the same opportunities to go to college," said Oosdyke. "It would've been nice to see more scholarships for students that are already attending Ferris. I know as a fifth year there's not a lot of opportunities for people who make it this far."

Some of Eisler's decisions have been questioned over the past few years. The Ferris Faculty Associations 2018 strike is one incident that gave rise to criticism.

"I have never really been a big fan of Eisler based on some of the things he's done, specifically because of what happened with FFA," said Oosdyke. "But I do understand that when you're in a big position like the one he is in you're going to get more money than you might deserve. But I mean there's probably a reason he's been here for 17 years."

Eisler's longevity bonus was reported to have been taken from the General Fund, which anyone is able to access on Ferris' website.

The budget for the 2019–2020 school year totaled to \$206,538,983. The general fund budget allocation form showed the eight different categories with various subcategories and the percentage of the total budget that this amount went to, as shown by the graph above.

The general fund's revenue consists of five different sources, which include: student fees, investment income, departmental activities, state support and student tuition, which makes up 71% of the fund.

Upon looking at the general fund budget allocation form it is unclear which category of the budget includes Eisler's bonus and the budgeting office at Ferris did not respond to a request to comment.

## Being an intern during the pandemic

**Rebecca Vanderkooi**  
Interim News Reporter

Ferris is well known for implementing real world experiences into its curriculum, but this has become much more complicated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Almost every degree offered here requires an internship prior to graduation. Numerous students have had changes made to their internship plans, faced with unprecedented times.

However, Ferris students aren't having to do this all on their own. Megan Connaghan is Ferris' internship programs director. Connaghan has been working to provide extra support to students throughout the pandemic. She encourages students to utilize Handshake to connect with employers and other virtual recruitment events.

"Due to the pandemic, recruiting is mostly being done virtually," Connaghan explained. "Even though companies may not physically be on campus, students can connect with employers online to discuss internship opportunities. Many students complete their internships during the summer, so it's important that students know how to connect with employers this fall."

As students watched COVID-19 unfold in the spring, some were uncertain on how their internships were going to continue.

Senior accounting major Gretchen Parker was trying to finish her bachelor's degree in the spring semester. This past January she had an internship in Grand Rapids at Hunger for Nickles. When the pandemic hit in March, she had to finish the remaining months of her internship online.

"Switching to online, it was way harder to learn new jobs and concepts," Parker said. "In the three months in person I learned more than in the six months online."

She was just about to sign a lease on an apartment in Colorado for an internship this past summer when she got the news that this internship had been moved online as well.

"I was disappointed because I had plans to go to concerts and events with other interns to help develop relationships," Parker said.

As she looks ahead to the spring semester, she has plans to return to Hunger for Nickles for another internship. However, it's already been decided that it will be remote. Similarly, during the summer she was scheduled to do another audit internship in Colorado, which ended up being a remote position as well.

Parker isn't the only student who has had plans change during the past few months. For hospitality management junior Kamryn McKay, the pandemic made a big change to her intended summer internship.

"I was supposed to do my internship at a South Carolina hotel, but they had to cancel. I ended up at Level One bank, and it has been the best experience," McKay said.

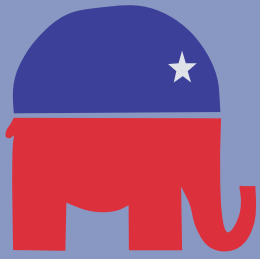
Although things have changed for many students, some departments have been affected less than others. Diane Maguire is the PGA Golf Management Assistant Director and Internship Coordinator. Unlike many other programs the PGA GM students have had mostly normal internships this summer and fall.

"Our PGA Golf Management students are fortunate because the pandemic has not impacted the golf industry as much as others during the last 8 months," Maguire said. "This stroke of luck can be attributed to the nature of the sport. Golf is largely played outdoors and can be played individually which allows its patrons to safely socially distance."

For a lot of other students however, the changes have caused an increase in stress levels. Business and criminal justice senior Meagan Van Loo was just one of many who are concerned about the prospect of landing an internship during the ongoing pandemic.

"I think it will be harder to find an internship this fall because there are less jobs and people don't need as many employees, and many businesses have downsized," Van Loo said.

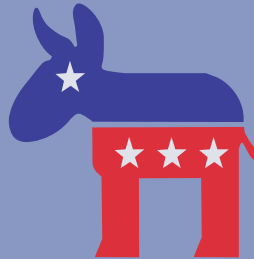
# 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION UPDATE



## POLL NUMBERS

**JOE BIDEN UP BY 6.83 POINTS IN MICHIGAN**

**JOE BIDEN UP BY 6.9 POINTS IN U.S.**



**Sept. 25,** Trump nominated Judge Amy Coney Barrett, Judge of the Seventh Circuit Court Appeals, to fill the seat of the Late-Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Judge Barrett has only had three years of experience being a judge when she was appointed to the Seventh Circuit by President Trump back in 2017. This is a controversial decision to nominate Judge Barrett because of her strong beliefs on pro-life, and anti-LGBTQAI+ remarks in former speeches.

**Sept. 27,** The New York Times (NYT) obtained files of President Trump's tax returns. It was reported that President Trump

paid \$750 for the tax year of 2017 and 2016, with plus 10 years of not having to pay federal income tax. Some of the tax returns came back saying President Trump wrote of more than \$70,000 dollars' worth of haircuts for the apprentice, just for himself, and \$96,000 for his daughter's hair and makeup artist for the show The Apprentice. In addition, he wrote of over two million dollars of legal defense for himself and his son, Donald Trump Jr. The President held an evening preconference stating it is 'fake news' and how the Internal Revenue Service "don't treat me well. They treat me very badly. You have people in the IRS

that they treat me very, very badly." The NYT has not disclosed their source but will continue to update the story when they gain new information.

**Sept. 29,** The debates took place on all major news platforms and YouTube. The topics talked about where the records of Trump and Biden, The Supreme Court, COVID-19, the economy, race and violence in populated cities, and the integrity of the Election. There will be two more debates on Oct. 15 and Oct 22. If you missed the debate it can be re-watched on YouTube.

# - ON THE RECORD -

A roundup of this week's crime at Ferris State University

## Law and Order: SVU

**Ry Rodriguez**  
News Editor

### Not today, not ever

Sept. 6, 6:25 p.m., a Ward Hall student who was being stalked by a sex offender, the offender was walking the fine lines of a Personal Protective Order with internet stalking. The offender does not live near campus, but in northern Michigan. After being seen on Ferris' campus, Ferris public safety worked with the sheriff's office, where the offender was from, to piece together enough to issue a warrant and was arrested.

### It's crack city out here

Sept. 22, 10:49 p.m., Near Bond

Circle a non-Ferris student was pulled over for having a suspended license. Once the operator was apprehended, some methamphetamine paraphernalia was found within the car adding another charge to the driver.

### Law and Order: SVU

Sept. 23, 2:21 a.m., The police where called for damage to property at Pine Valley Suites. It was suspected that a roommate purposely killed their roommates 25 cent goldfish with bleach. After further investigation it remains a closed-cold case because the main suspect denied killing the fish, and no witnesses could provide any testimony.

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## THIS WEEK IN MICHIGAN NEWS

Catch up on news around the state

**Ry Rodriguez**  
News Editor

### Capital Update

The Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel launched a criminal investigation against the group trying to repeal Governor Whitmer's emergency powers law, Unlock Michigan. What sparked the investigation was the secret recording of a training session for signature collectors, which the recording was taken by the opposition group Keep Michigan Safe, stating they might or will get signatures in illegal ways.

### Sports Update

The Detroit Lions won their first game of the year, beating the cardinals 26 to 23 in the last seconds of the game. With three seconds left in the game the Lions kicker, Matt Prater, made a 39-yard field goal. This puts the Lions third in the NFC North. Their next game is on Sunday, Oct. 4, against the Saints. The Detroit Tigers finished off the season 23-35, third worst in MLB, this comes after the season with 114 losses, making this the continuation of another 'rebuilding-year'.

### Covid Updated Counter

**Confirmed Positive Cases: 135,749\***

**Confirmed Deaths: 7,052\***

**Confirmed Recovered Cases: 95,051\*\***

**\*From The NYT updated almost every four (4) hours**

**\*\*Michigan.gov updated every Saturday**

## Torch Corrections

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Corrections can be submitted through email at [fsutorcheditor@gmail.com](mailto:fsutorcheditor@gmail.com) or by calling 231-591-5978

### TAYLOR

Continued from page 1

because, enough is enough," Brooks said.

Brooks was the student who planned the BLM protest at Ferris. Originally a few residents of Big Rapids tried to put together a peaceful protest titled, Big Rapids Supports the Black Community, which was ultimately canceled due to negative feedback and death threats. Brooks decided to pick up the baton and plan one at Ferris despite the negative feedback.

"I too received death threats and there were even "alleged" Ferris students threatening to hang the 'fill in the blank' that show up to the protest," Brooks said. "Receiving that negative backlash and pressure, was a sign to me that I was doing exactly what I was supposed to do, so with just one day to prepare, we successfully had a peaceful protest in Big Rapids on June 3 with over 400 individuals present."

Brooks believes there is an issue with our justice system and officers are above the law when it comes to killing black people. Especially with the current administration, he believes it is more open

and upfront and that racists are no longer afraid.

When the person that sits in the oval office shares the same racist ideals, they don't have a reason to be afraid, he said.

Because of this, Brooks is for police reform and wrote a proposal known as the C.R.I for help act, which is Legislation to have the State of Michigan invest in public safety responses that are rooted in community-based alternatives to police.

Brooks closed with a call to action urging his peers to take action alongside with him.

"As an activist it truly broke my heart but at the same time increased the fire within me and was a wake up call to all activists that we still have a lot of work to do, and now is not the time to be complacent," said Brooks. "My brothers and sisters, you are the change of which you seek. It's time to take a stand within history and create what the late honorable brother John Lewis once described as 'Good Trouble.'"

To hear more from Brooks on the BLM movement, see page 6.

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# COVID CAMPAIGNING



Photos by: Benjamin Totten | Torch Photographer

Many Big Rapids residents are showing their support for Presidential candidates Joe Biden and Donald Trump.

## *With the election drawing near, politicians are still hitting the campaign trail*

**Mason Grunow**  
News Reporter

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, life itself has largely been put on hold, but the upcoming presidential election is different story.

In many places, voting has already begun with mail-in ballots, drop off centers, and early voting polls to lower the chance of exposure to COVID-19. Now candidates are making final, calculated attempts to rally last minute support.

On Tuesday, Sept. 22, the Democratic Vice-Presidential Nominee Kamala Harris came to Detroit. Harris was joined by Mich. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Detroit Mayor Mike

Duggan, and U.S. Rep. Brenda Lawrence at a town hall geared to motivate Democratic and swing voters in Michigan.

The town hall speakers all wore masks while delivering their messages and the podium was sanitized between speakers. The event was held outside, and it appeared that guests were either not physically present or were physically distanced, according to C-SPAN's recording of the event.

The event featured targeted hits against President Trump and his administration's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Harris also noted that the President is working to eliminate the Affordable Care

Act, also known as Obamacare.

About 5% of Michiganders have insurance from the Affordable Care Act, while roughly another 5% have no insurance at all.

Harris said a "victory in this election would only be possible by a victory in Michigan." She also claimed that foreign interference could happen in this election.

Additionally, Harris warned of potential voter suppression attempts by the current administration, stating that Republicans are intentionally making voting difficult.

President Trump has also been holding rallies during this time. He's recently made appearances in Florida, Virginia and Michigan.

Photos and videos taken during his earlier events have shown a disregard for physical distancing guidelines and budding mask mandates. Recently, when there is a camera involved, this appears to have changed. When President Trump speaks and has a crowd behind him, they are wearing masks.

Michigan was won by President Trump in the 2016 General Election, but this time around the state appears to lean towards Joe Biden, the democratic nominee for president.

FiveThirtyEight, an election predicting company, currently has Biden as a slight favorite to win both Michigan and the general election.

All things considered, there is still a hanging question about whether it is responsible to hold campaign events during a pandemic. Precautions can and have been taken, but these rallies are nonessential events, and hosting them in a pandemic may set a double standard as other activities remain closed.

"If musicians can't hold in-person events, why should politicians be able to?" a music production senior who wished to remain anonymous said.

The first presidential debate is scheduled for Sept. 29 at 9 p.m. est. All major news networks will broadcast the event as well as YouTube and Twitter.

## Enrollment drops from 13,250 to 11,165 in two years

Trends stay consistent, emphasized by COVID-19 pandemic

**Alyssa Hubbard**  
News Reporter

Ferris' fall student enrollment has been steadily declining for the past few years, but COVID-19 had a major impact this fall semester.

This year's student enrollment had a 10.5% decline compared to fall 2019's enrollment numbers. Ferris' 2020 fall enrollment sits at just 11,165 students as opposed to 2019's fall enrollment of 12,500 students.

Many believe that COVID-19 was the cause for this significant drop in enrollment. However, the student enrollment decline, has been a university issue for the past five years.

In 2018, 13,250 students were enrolled at Ferris. In 2015, over 14,700 students enrolled. In the last five years, the university has

experienced a 25% decrease in the student population.

Kristen Salomonson Ferris' dean of enrollment services, believes the student enrollment has declined because of a predicted high school graduation rate decrease.

"The most significant factor is the demographic landscape in our state and region," Salomonson said. "Projections until 2032 indicate that Michigan will drop to 88,000 high school graduates. Between 2013 to 2025, we are predicted to have 14,000 fewer high school graduates. And from 2025 to 2032, we are predicted to lose 10,000 more. After 2032, there is projected to be a slight uptick in the numbers. To compare, in 2013 there were 111,000 high school graduates."

This drop in high school grad-

uates creates a negative feedback-loop on future college enrollments. Salomonson estimated this rate decrease will progress for the next 10 years and colleges will have a smaller range of possible applicants in the future.

The Ferris administration has made various plans to encourage more students to attend the university.

"Each year, we develop a recruitment plan with the university community," Salomonson said. "The plan outlines strategies and tactics to reach our enrollment goals for in-state and out-of-state first year, transfer and readmit students. The plan contains information about our enrollment funnel, activities to grow the applicant pool, our financial aid leveraging philosophy and sharing details of our comprehensive yield

strategies. Each year we critically examine the output and retool for the next cycle."

COVID-19 forced many institutions to transition most of their in-person instruction to virtual platforms and other online content. Salomonson mentioned that Ferris adjusted admissions and student activities to be more suitable online.

"I have returned to the university due to my commitment to the cross country and track teams, as well as a number of other things," nursing sophomore Ethan Hamilton said. "Including the smaller class sizes, which provides a more personal feeling and a better relationship with the professor, the many things to do on and around campus, especially downtown Big Rapids, and the overall fun atmosphere the university has."

Hamilton suggested that Ferris needed to work on its advertising in order to display encouraging reasons why students should attend this university.

Pre-optometry junior Nick Anderson says the reason he chose to attend Ferris was because it is the only college of optometry in the state of Michigan, so advertising was not necessary.

Ferris offers many lesser-known programs for students, such as dentistry and event management. Anderson inferred that students may not be as interested in those programs, which may correlate to the enrollment decline.

Ferris admissions is hopeful for future enrollment despite COVID-19's massive effect this semester.

# Sit down with Chief Justice McCormack



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Assistant

## 'Students need to care who they are voting for'

**Ry Rodriguez**  
News Editor

On Monday, Sept. 21, The Torch News Editor Ry Rodriguez had an exclusive interview with the Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack.

The meeting lasted about 30 minutes on Zoom. Since Justice McCormack currently has open cases, she had to decline on some of the questions that were asked. In the face of the upcoming election she also had to withhold from taking any political stances that could be labeled as partisan.

Justice McCormack did start off the interview with her condolences to the late-Justice Ginsburg, saying "I did not know her well, but when she came to U of M, I had the privilege to talk to her, and she is just a wonderful woman who focused on human rights and she was a titan in that field."

I went in with the intent to ask if she has ever thought of becoming a federal judge, even a Supreme Court Justice, but she explained to me earlier in the meeting, "I love the state level, it is where everything is at and where most decisions stay."

About 70% of the cases laid before the Michigan Supreme court are criminal cases, while the other 30% are civil, like the Governors State of Emergency orders.

A unique attribute of the Michigan

Supreme Court is how the Justices run on a non-partisan ticket. This means that candidates must rely on merit and public image for a chance at an eight-year term on the bench.

Justice McCormack could not stress this enough, "Please, students need to care who they are voting for, you can look up the people on the ballot before you vote so you can make a decision on who you seem fit it. Especially with the mail in ballots, you get more time to make your decision, but still do your research if you are voting in person."

When Justice McCormack decided to run in 2012, she ran against an incumbent and got the seat with less than one percent to the runner-up.

"Remember to look at the ballot and see if there is a choose two option, and make sure you fill it out, or there could be one less vote for someone else," McCormack said.

On the ballot this year, it is a choose two option with current Chief Justice McCormack, and six other justice hopefuls, "So there is lots of research to be done," McCormack added.

A Tik Tok from the account @Progressmich talked about this as well. They explained how there are two seats up for the Michigan Supreme Court, and "[Justices] appear on the nonpartisan section of the ballot...fill out your entire ballot because even if

you vote straight ticket, your straight ticket vote does not apply [to the] nonpartisan section."

McCormack is from New Jersey and moved to Michigan after accepting a job at the University of Michigan Law program. When the 2012 election came close some of her friends and co-workers thought it would be in McCormack's best interest if she ran for a seat on Michigan's Supreme Court.

When McCormack decided to run, it was against an incumbent judge and she won by a slim margin.

"It was not easy, the only easy part was deciding to run, it was like 'yes I'm running,' but that's when everything started to get hard. I cannot run ads about my policies. I just had to show why people should vote for me because of the work I've done, but this year I think it is a little easier," McCormack said.

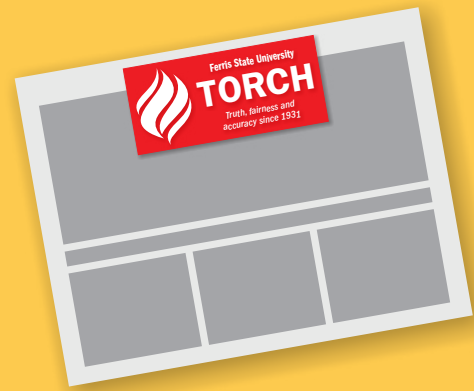
On the ballot it will show Bridget Mary McCormack's name with the six other candidates in a vote-two section of the ballot, but something will be different about this section. Under her name it will show Justice of Supreme Court making it easier for people to know she is an incumbent, and more than likely easier for people to choose.

For more information on Chief Justice McCormack's campaign you can her on Twitter @BridgetMaryMc.



Photo from Bridget McCormack's Twitter

Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack with the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg



## Want to write for the Torch but don't have the time every week?

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# LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

## Taking a stand

Ferris students criticize administration for not fulfilling university core values of diversity and collaboration



Photo courtesy of Will Holden

Byron Brooks leading protesters at Black Lives Matter march in Big Rapids June 3, 2020.

**Kendall Rooks**  
Lifestyles Reporter

The university is not taking the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement seriously in Byron Brooks' eyes and it's something he wants to change.

Brooks is a Ferris honors student and the Social Justice Programming Coordinator for the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS). He has been a crucial part in bringing attention to the movement in the area. This past June, Brooks organized the BLM March in Big Rapids.

At a time when predominantly white institutions across the state and nation are responding to widespread protests calling out police brutality and anti-Black racism, members of the Ferris community are encouraging the administration to hold itself accountable for what they see as its weak and limited support of the BLM movement.

"If we're being honest, what have they done?" Brooks said "I'm person-

ally still waiting for a statement from the university simply stating, 'Black Lives do in fact Matter.' It is well over time our institution, an institution that was founded on the principles of collaboration, diversity, ethical community, excellence, learning and opportunity, transform its err into action."

Brooks said he fulfilled his promise in getting the Mayor of Big Rapids, Police Chief, City Commissioner and others talking about the injustices that surround Black people today.

"I have established a city wide Social Equality Initiative and I am confident that through this initiative we are on a good track to dismantling systemic racism and promoting social equity within the city of Big Rapids."

Along with this march Brooks also led dozens of other protests across the nation including the recreation of the Selma March in Bel Isle, Detroit, as well as an address at Capitol Hill in

Washington D.C.

"As an activist myself, I understand that change will not be immediate. It may take many generations to finally arrive," he said. "I believe that we are the change of which we seek. We all have a purpose and I believe that although our purposes may be

**"I'm personally still waiting for a statement from the university simply stating, 'Black Lives do in fact Matter.'"**

**-Byron Brooks**

unique, I feel that God still equipped us with something within ourselves that is meant to help better society as a whole, and it is our duty to utilize our purpose.

"There is an activist lying dormant in many of you reading this today. Ignite that flame of change."

A national diversity survey ranked Ferris as one of the lowest in the country, with only 21% of students being minorities during the 2018-2019.

Ferris senior and student assistant at OMSS Jasmin Wynns feels that the BLM movement has been around for an extensive amount of time and Ferris should have been standing in solidarity with the BLM movement when Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Micheal Brown and many others had their lives taken by law enforcement.

"Ferris should do just as much, if not more as the Office of Multicultural Student Services when it comes to understanding how to deal with the police, how to respond when being pulled over and how to deal with racial tension," Wynns said. "I have seen flags and informationals about other social issues in communities

but there are little to no displays that show support to the Black Lives Matter Movement."

Assistant Director of OMSS Darnell Lewis said, "These discussions can be hard. I met the owner of Kilwin's downtown and she was shocked to hear about racism Ferris students have faced in the Big Rapids community and wanted to start having these discussions."

He said that there was recently a virtual discussion about "Knowing Your Rights," which engaged students and faculty in a long discussion that left some in tears and others sending "thank you's" to the OMSS office for exposing them to social injustices they were not aware of.

The OMSS office has assembled a panel of members from the Detroit Civil Right and Inclusion Department who will be speaking about "Black Votes Matter" on Oct. 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. You can follow OMSS event updates on Facebook and Instagram @fsuomss.

# THE SHOW MUST GO ON

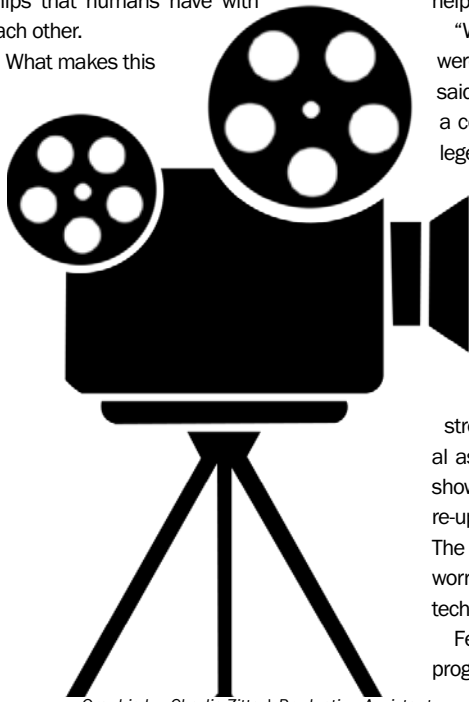
Theatre students filming musical separately for remote musical

**Matthew Miller**  
Lifestyles Reporter

Every semester, Ferris theatre puts on a production to showcase the talent FSU has to offer, but this semester has the theatre looking a little different.

The Fall 2020 production is going to be a musical called Theory of Relativity, written by Brian Hill with music by Neil Bartram. The musical is going to display the different types of relationships that humans have with each other.

What makes this



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Assistant

production so much different from the rest is the theatre won't be performing it live. Actors will be doing their performances over Zoom while being recorded, and they will be edited together for one cohesive show.

Ferris professor Katherine LaPietra is the artistic director for the theatre and the overseer of projects. She has been a professor at Ferris for the past 20 years. She said that she works with an awesome team of well-trained people who help put on the show.

"We are ahead of the curve when people were asking to do things remotely," LaPietra said. "We have had to rework our contract a couple of times. It is a fun show about college-age students, so that's pretty cool, and those don't happen very often."

LaPietra said that this is the first time Ferris has ever done a show like this. She and her colleagues decided that they wanted to give it a shot. She picked out this show, specifically because of the minimalism of the show.

LaPietra said that the play would be streamed through Music Theatre International as they own the play's rights to protect the show's integrity and so it can't be recorded or re-uploaded on other social media platforms. The musical will be free so that no one has to worry about wasting money due to potential technical issues.

Ferris does not offer a major or minor degree program in theatre, so the people who work on

this production participate for their own enjoyment.

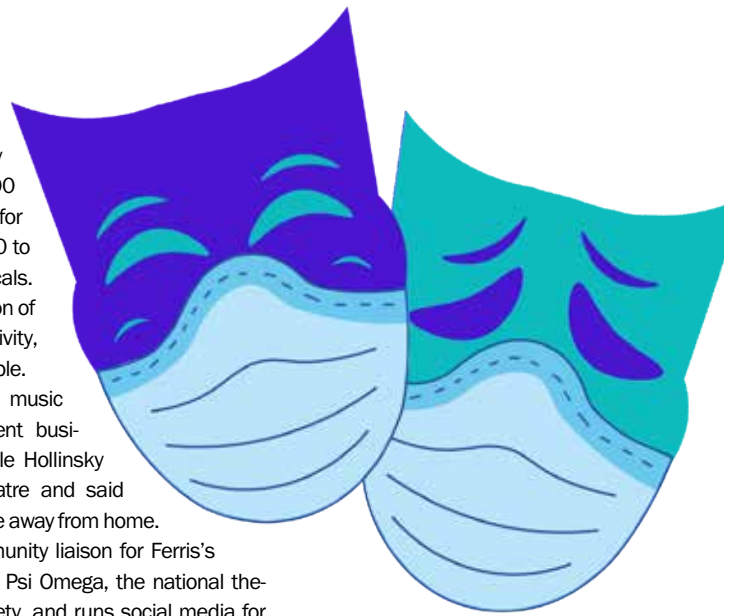
Typically, they have 80 to 100 people audition for a musical and 60 to 80 for non-musicals. For this production of Theory of Relativity, they had 45 people.

Ferris junior music and entertainment business major Nicole Hollinsky loves Ferris theatre and said that it is her home away from home. She is the community liaison for Ferris's chapter of Alpha Psi Omega, the national theatre honors society, and runs social media for the theatre.

Hollinsky has been acting since she was five years old, holding roles such as Sophie in Mamma Mia! She says the show has been stressful, finding time to film and doing everything through Zoom.

"The virus affects everything when it comes to theatre," said Hollinsky. "All of our rehearsals are through Zoom. We are also going to be filming ourselves, and it will be cut together to be streamed. It's almost like filming a movie-musical."

She said the downside to this is that they



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Assistant

miss out on the social aspect of theatre, but they are all staying safe. It is not the simplest way to put on a show.

The date for the musical to debut is Nov. 19. Ferris State theatre encourages you to come and be a part of them and welcome you with open arms. They don't care what your experience level is. For more information, you can follow them on Instagram @Ferrisstateuniversitytheatre or twitter @FSUTheater.

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# How to get that free bread

Student food pantry offers online ordering option



Photo by: Cora Hall | Editor in Chief

The student food pantry is now offering online orders for students.

**Meghan Hartley**  
Lifestyles Reporter

The student food pantry on campus is committed to helping Ferris students thrive during their college years.

Created in 2017, the student food pantry is an organization committed to giving students the nutritional necessities needed to have a successful year at Ferris. They are located at 628 S Warren Ave, just across the street from the Science Building on campus.

The pantry organizers believe that no student should have to wonder where their next meal is coming from or have to start skipping meals because they don't have enough to make it through the semester.

The food pantry consists of cereal, fruit, vegetables, snacks, dairy, and packaged essentials for the lavatory and laundromat. Each student can receive enough essentials for up to

two weeks.

Reverend Kim Bos, the food pantry supervisor and Wesley House director, says the organization receives donations from other RSO's, local churches, and individuals.

"We are even partnered with FSU's inclusion and diversity office," Bos said.

Many know the student food pantry to be connected to the Wesley House, a religious organization located on campus, and many students wonder if they must be religious to use the pantry.

"We're not religiously affiliated," Bos said. "We'll serve anybody, as long as they're a Ferris State student. So regardless of race, color, creed, belief system, we are a no-strings-attached pantry if you need help or even if you could use just a little hand up, we want to help you."

This past spring, when COVID-19 had hit the hardest, the food pantry

stepped in to help those who needed it. Volunteers were able to help 78 students in the month of March alone.

Since the beginning of the semester the pantry has been able to help 25 students, and hope to help more throughout campus.

Any student interested in getting in contact with the food pantry should head to their Facebook page. There you will find the days and times they are open, an email, and phone number for further questions.

This year, the pantry wants to make sure students are fed, well nourished, and can receive the necessities needed safely. Therefore, they have also included a link to an online order form.

With online orders you can fill out a form of the items you need the most, enter your name, student ID and the best way to be contacted.

## Torch Corrections

The bond that will last a lifetime

In the Torch's issue from Sept. 9, Kyle White's name was incorrectly spelled Kyler several times.

Corrections can be submitted through email at [fsutorcheditor@gmail.com](mailto:fsutorcheditor@gmail.com) or by calling 231-591-5978

## Events calendar

### WEDNESDAY

Sept. 30

**EASY 2 mile  
walk/ jog/ run**

Contact: Anna Douglas  
[annadouglas@ferris.edu](mailto:annadouglas@ferris.edu)  
Location: Rec Center  
Time: 10:30- 11:30 a.m.



**World Trivia Night**

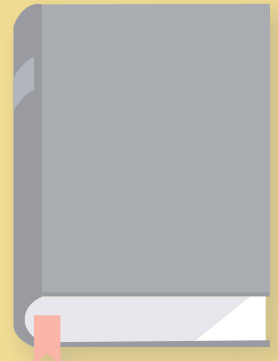
Contact: Jacob van Laar  
[jacobvanlaar@ferris.edu](mailto:jacobvanlaar@ferris.edu)  
Time: 5- 6:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY

Nov. 1

**Community Coupon  
Books to Support Local  
Businesses**

Contact: Michele Albright  
[michelealbright@ferris.edu](mailto:michelealbright@ferris.edu)  
Location: Online  
Time: 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.



**HIIT (High Intensity  
Interval Training)**

Contact: Anna Douglas  
[annadouglas@ferris.edu](mailto:annadouglas@ferris.edu)  
Location: Rec Center  
Time: 3- 3:45 p.m.

### FRIDAY

Nov. 2

**LGBTQ+ Homocoming**

Contact: Sarah Doherty  
[sarahdoherty@ferris.edu](mailto:sarahdoherty@ferris.edu)  
Location: Virtual  
Time: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.



**FriGay Gaymes**

Contact: Sarah Doherty  
[lgbtqcenter@ferris.edu](mailto:lgbtqcenter@ferris.edu)  
Location: Online  
Time: 3- 5 p.m.

**Drive in Movie: Hocus Pocus**

Contact: CLACS  
[clacs@ferris.edu](mailto:clacs@ferris.edu)  
Location: Lot 1  
Time: 8- 9:45 p.m.

### MONDAY

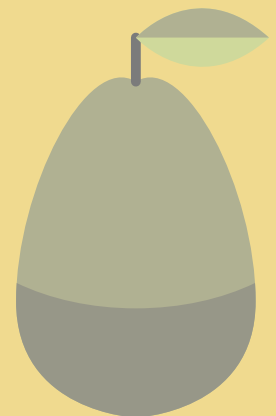
Nov. 5

**Virtual Cooking Show**

Contact: Anna Douglas  
[annadouglas@ferris.edu](mailto:annadouglas@ferris.edu)  
Location: Online  
Time: 1:30- 2:30 p.m.

**HIIT (High Intensity  
Interval Training)**

Contact: Anna Douglas  
[annadouglas@ferris.edu](mailto:annadouglas@ferris.edu)  
Location: Rec Center  
Time: 3- 3:45 p.m.



For more events, check out [calendar.ferris.edu](http://calendar.ferris.edu)

# Homecoming Ambassador Candidates



## LEONARDO ALMANZA

Fennville, MI

- Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity Inc. President
- The Anti-Violence Alliance
- United Greek Council President
- Student Alumni Gold Club
- 2020 Association of Latino Professionals for America Fellow

## RYLEIGH SPETOSKEY

Grand Rapids, MI

- Music and Entertainment Business Association President
- Resident Advisor
- Vibrato Vibes Music Director

## LEZLEY RODRIGUEZ

Holland, MI

- 2020-21 Newman Civic Fellow
- United Greek Council
- Promesa Scholars Program
- 2019 Rising Star Award
- Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc

**Vote in Bulldog Connect between  
September 28th at 8:00am and  
October 7th at 11:59pm!**



**HOMEcoming  
2020**

For any questions please contact Crystal Rolf at [rolfc@ferris.edu](mailto:rolfc@ferris.edu)



**HOMEcoming  
2020**

Ferris State University is an equal opportunity institution. For information on the University's policy on non-discrimination, visit "[www.ferris.edu/non-discrimination](http://www.ferris.edu/non-discrimination)"

# SPORTS

Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor | sandeb16@ferris.edu

## Football players frustrated over GLIAC decision

Some left wondering what high schools can do that Ferris couldn't

Brody Keiser  
Sports Reporter

Football games are being played across the country, including Michigan high school football and Division I Big Ten teams. Division II, III and NAIA are still on the sidelines, though.

As with each of the past few seasons, expectations were high for Ferris coming into 2020. Many Bulldogs felt that this was the year they would make it all the way and secure a national championship victory. Without a season to play, sadness filled the Bulldogs.

"It hurts not being able to take the field," Ferris junior defensive lineman Jordan Jones said. "We worked so hard all summer long and had big expectations coming into the season after falling in the Final Four to West Florida last year."

On top of the disappointment Jones felt about being unable to play football, he also expressed frustration with the people involved in deciding to cancel the GLIAC football season.

"The way they played it out for us and how they took forever to let us know if we were playing or not just hurts," Jones said. "We haven't really been kept in the mix as players."

Jones's frustration continues as he watches other collegiate programs at the Division I level play while his Bulldogs are not allowed to play. Junior defensive linemen Brendan Siwajek believed that money allowed the Division I schools to play.

"I understand that the major Division I programs have the budget to play," Siwajek said. "Realistically, at the DII level, we don't have the budget to be able to support all the variables that COVID brings along with it."

COVID-19 brings many challenges to everyday life, and Jones understood the need for safety. Division I programs have the money and resources to protect their players as best as possible against the dangers of COVID-19.

However, if money is the reason Division I schools can play, and a successful Division II program lacks sufficient funds to provide adequate player and personnel safety, Jones questions how high school programs have the money to do so. He feels that high schools are ill-prepared and "going out there blind."

"I just wonder what these high schools and other colleges are doing that we couldn't do," Jones said.

Knowing that Division II programs do not make as much money as large Division I programs did not stop Jones from believing that Ferris could have found a way to ensure player safety. He believes that Division II schools also have the resources available to allow their teams to play.

Despite all the disappointment and frustration, Jones understood the decision to cancel



Photo by Ferris football player

Ferris Football has begun workouts and lifts in small groups.

football and knew safety was the top priority when the decision was made to suspend the season.

The Bulldogs are currently allowed to lift and get on the field for training and conditioning. Player and personnel safety is the university's top priority, so the team wears masks and social distances when engaging in team activities. Both Jones and Siwajek credited the university and trainers for their job in keeping the players safe.

Jordan Jones

Jordan Jones

"They want us to be safe and don't want us to battle with COVID," Jones said. "They want us in the weight room and taking care of our bodies, and they've done a great job with that."

Siwajek was grateful for the opportunity to work out with his teammates again, but these workouts brought about more confusion. He failed to understand why the Bulldogs can train together but still cannot play football.

Without football, the players have much more free time. That can be beneficial if the players elect to spend that time training and preparing themselves for the next time they take the field.

"I think this is an advantage because now there is more time that I can separate myself personally from the competition," senior defensive lineman Sam Girodat said. "I would love to be a freshman right now because this is a great time to get a whole year to train before you even start using any eligibility."

Instead of expressing frustration, Girodat chose to focus on the positives brought about by the season's cancellation. He advised the young players on the team to have the same mindset and work to better themselves.

On the other hand, Jones believed that the players would be safer if they could play football.

"Since we're not playing, we have a lot more free time so people aren't going to take the proper precautions," Jones said. "If we were

playing, I bet a bunch of people would stay in the house and do the right thing. Some of the players have never gotten to enjoy college, so now, with all this free time, they want to enjoy college a little bit."

Jones's concerns with players not taking the dangers of COVID-19 seriously in the absence of football echo those of Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence. Lawrence argued that players would be safer and less at risk of contracting COVID-19 if they could play football.

The football team's newcomers face a difficult task to become acquainted with the Bulldogs during social distancing. Jones, Girodat, and Siwajek felt that they could be strong mentors to the young players and guide them through their journey.

"We have a lot of newcomers to the team this year, and we haven't been able to be around them as much as we usually would be. My goal is to influence them and try to be a leader on the team to make the people better," Girodat said.

These are trying times. Luckily for the Bulldogs, they have the love and support of all their teammates and coaches.

"Our coaching staff is some of the greatest people I've ever been around," Girodat said. "Every football program across the country talks about their family, but it's really true here. Coach Annese cares about his players like no coach I've ever seen before."

Not playing football is disappointing. But the Bulldogs will be back. It is difficult to know when they will retake the field and impossible to predict the future. However, when Ferris next plays competitive football, they will work towards their goal of bringing a national championship home to Big Rapids.

## Leaders of the leagues

Ferris players happy to see other leagues follow suit with WNBA

Cora Hall  
Editor in Chief

"About time."

That was the only thought running through Hannah Barnes' head when she saw many professional leagues follow the WNBA's lead on outspoken stands against racial injustice. The junior guard had seen the activism in the WNBA for years and not get recognition. Now, the world has seen the impact of professional athletes speaking out.

For senior guard Adrienne Anderson, athletes using their platforms is not only respectable, but necessary at this point.



Adrienne Anderson

"The people in those leagues are role models to so many people, young and old," Anderson said. "If we're being honest, people are like, if Maya Moore

does it, I want to do it. If LeBron James does it, I want to do it. They're just very influential people."

The WNBA's bold stances against racial injustice date all the way back to 2016, a year which saw teams wearing shirts supporting Black lives, media blackouts and kneeling during the national anthem. Yet it was not until this year that many people became aware of the WNBA's social justice movement. Ferris women's basketball players know this, and believe the league does not get the recognition they deserve.

"Not at all, honestly," Anderson said in regard to the WNBA getting recognition. "I will acknowledge that they have gotten more publicity when it comes to their outspokenness about the situation. They've gotten commercials and of course when their games are on there will be a shout out here and there. But there are so many things that the organization does along with individual players that don't get the recognition that is needed."

Barnes went even further to say the league and its players don't get enough credit for anything, including equal pay. However, as they gain more attention for speaking up and as they continue to shed light on the matter, Barnes believes they will get closer to equaling the playing field.

As more and more teams began to take stands this summer and fall, critics fired back, saying that the leagues will lose viewers and that athletes



Photos from ESPN's Twitter

The Washington Mystics walked out for their game in August with Jacob Blake spelled out on their shirts and seven bullet holes on the backs.

shouldn't get political. Sophomore guard Mallory McCartney disagreed with the sentiments, and said she would personally use her platform to support her Black teammates.

"I don't think anyone has the right to tell you that you are not allowed to voice your opinion," McCartney said. "With that being said, you have to be able to listen to others' opinions, but no one ever has the right to tell you that you can't voice yours. People look to athletes and if that's my way to spread awareness, then that's exactly what I'm going to do and no one is really going to stop me."



Hannah Barnes

For Barnes, the opposing voices are the reason why players will keep speaking out.

"People want to keep shutting us into our little box of 'You're just an athlete, you don't know what you're talking about,'" Barnes said. "They just keep hiding the fact that we're actually real people. I would tell those people that ignorance is ignorance and we're just going to keep fighting on."

Anderson has been the target of racism throughout her life. Not all of it was blatant, but it's happened in Big Rapids and it's happened back in her hometown of Romulus and Ann Arbor.

"It is a part of daily life," Anderson said. "I've experienced it, I've been a victim to it, but I've learned how to go about stuff like that."

Former women's head basketball coach Kendra Faustin said you can't talk to a person of color who hasn't experienced racism.



Kendra Faustin

"I think that's the point," she said. "Whether it's malice, if it's intended or not. You cannot speak to a person of color who has not encountered racism."

For Anderson, education is the most impactful way to combat racism. Having the open-mindedness to educate others is her way of choice to change others' perspectives.

"I feel personally feel that racism—of course, I think it's totally wrong and it's not fair, it's nothing that anybody can help. You can't judge someone based on something they can't control," Anderson said. "Education is really the way to go about changing people's mindsets and it's not going to happen overnight. Clearly, we're in a time where things need a change and it's not going to happen overnight."

For all the injustices Anderson has seen this year, she feels strongly that strides have been made in educating others. From heightened media coverage of the murders of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, to players across all leagues taking stands in response.

"It's education at its finest in order to make a change systematically," Anderson said.

One player who made an impact on Anderson this season was Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, who made a pointed effort to bring justice to Breonna Taylor.

"Yes, I do feel as though—being a Black woman myself—that we are very disrespected," Anderson said. "And that is not to take away from any other race or sex, because everybody has their own problems. But to focus on Black women, I really do appreciate people like LeBron James taking a stance because, let's be honest, he is more listened to than just the average person."

"For him to take a stance and speak his mind, it really just drives momentum behind saving our Black women, protecting our Black women, appreciating them and loving them and adoring them. Because there is a special sense to us, as there is for any other race or any other sex. But there is a special sense to us, so having people stand up for people like us is inspiring and encouraging, so we can keep going and doing what we do. I really appreciate that from LeBron James."

The one player that all three Ferris players kept coming back to was Moore, though. The Minnesota Lynx forward opted out of the season for the second straight year in 2020, according to the New York Times. Moore made the decision to sit out in order to advocate for criminal justice reform and the release of Jona-

than Irons, whose 50-year sentence was overturned in March by Judge Daniel Green, according to Bleacher Report. According to Green, the prosecution's case against the 16-year-old Irons from 1998 was "very weak and circumstantial at best." Moore gave him the resources he didn't previously have to get the sentence overturned.

"She was the figure behind all of it who brought awareness to others and now look at already what she's done," McCartney said. "Not just for the game of basketball, but in life itself. You have younger people looking up to her not just for what she can do on the court, but for being a strong woman who stands up for what she believes in."

For McCartney, The Washington Mystics walked out for their game in August with Jacob Blake spelled out on the front of their shirts with seven bullet holes on the backs was the most impactful stance. The Mystics also walked off the court, refusing to play the game, which had a domino effect that led to the NBA postponing all playoff games as well.

"Basketball, they might be getting paid for it, but it's not their whole lives," McCartney said. "They realize that if it means not playing for there to be a change, that's what they'll do."

All three Ferris players said they would get involved in a public demonstration of their own if and when they have a season. Faustin, who would without question support them, knows them to be women who are willing to have the difficult conversations and stand up for what they believe in.

"It's at a point where silence is condoning," Faustin said. "And we're not doing that and I know that these particular athletes, that's who they are. They're not doing that."



Mallory McCartney



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TUNE IN TO OUR WEEKLY  
PODCAST WITH RY RODRIGUEZ

The Torchcast can be found on our website, Facebook page and YouTube

# Returning to work

## Cross country team details the challenges of training in the new normal

**Austin Arquette**  
Sports Reporter

As new restrictions allow some sports to start training for the next season in 2021, the Ferris State cross country teams begin to adapt.

The Ferris cross country team has started their training for both men's and women's teams while adapting to wearing masks as they train. The hope to compete and show their skills off in front of the fans has driven the athletes to train. Both teams have used each day as an opportunity, working out to gauge their fitness while also improving. Once the team is given the green light to race, they will be ready.

Head coach of track and cross country teams, Jared Kelsh, said that both programs are doing their best to stay motivated during these times.



Jared Kelsh

"Both teams have done a great job following protocols and social distancing, but also spending time together. They really missed running and working out together and are so happy to be back on campus," Kelsh said. "Social interaction is crucial to building a team and welcoming new athletes, so we relied heavily on zoom meetings over the summer."

With Ferris athletics finding out that all GLIAC competition would be canceled until Jan. 1, 2021, Kelsh focused more on emphasizing the indoor/outdoor track seasons that are approaching. The cross country team missed the outdoor track season from last spring and cross-country season this fall which made training a challenge.

According to Kelsh, it has been both mentally and physically challenging for training aspects. However, both teams have maximized their creativeness for training exercises. They've come together as a team and are making sure each teammate is on track and held accountable for their training.

The team's focus has been on their overall conditioning to be ready to start event-specific training when it is allowed. Strength is being worked on in the fall, even though there is no competition. Kelsh hopes this translates into impressive marks once the teams can compete. The strength and conditioning schedules were adjusted to help the athletes get solid bases for the fall season while making the team stronger. It will allow smooth transitions into track event exercises.

Wearing masks while training has certainly been an adjustment for everyone.



Hannah Loucks

Kelsh emphasized that his athletes have adapted well and can use masks designed by Under Armor for exercising. Junior runner Hannah Loucks talked about the added challenge of training with these new masks.

"Wearing a mask while running has been a challenge for our team this season,



Photo by: Benjamin Totten | Torch Photographer

(Left to right) Kyle Strong, Perry Robson and Ethan Hamilton prepare to train at Top Taggart Field

but like with any other challenge, our team adapts and is stronger because of it. I have witnessed all my teammates face this challenge with a positive attitude, and we hope we will be able to get back to running without masks when it is safe," Loucks said. "It is easy to be negative about the current circumstances, but I try to find the positives even if they are little things like the nice fall running weather we have had lately."

Loucks said she feels safe with the protocols in place for the cross country and all of athletics. Since both high school and professional running teams have been able to compete during this pandemic, Loucks believes it will be safe for colleges to return to action. Fellow teammate, junior Paige Deitering, also believes that she is safe and looks forward to indoor track season because she knows Ferris and the GLIAC are doing everything they can to keep athletes in a safe, healthy environment.

"It is definitely a challenge for us to get used to, but it's given us the ability to practice again, which has strengthened us structurally in being able to work together as a group rather than training alone," Deitering said. "The team has really come together this season in trying to stay positive and lift each other up since two of our seasons have now been canceled. Getting out the door and getting in the miles together has really been helping since returning to campus."

Two men's cross country seniors Weston Rackley and Donis Harris feel that their competitions should be allowed back since there are more dangerous activities that could spread the virus than running, and many of those have returned.

Rackley said wearing a mask is no issue and would gladly wear one to compete. Both men feel that all athletes are just eager to have their respective sport back and want to compete after everything that has happened. All the athletes strive for competition but understand that actions must

be safe for everyone and adapt to have action back.

"I would say it definitely provides more challenges. It messes with the structure of our training. Usually, we practice five days a week meeting with our coach the entire year, but this situation has made it so we can only meet 2 or 3 days a week. It can be difficult to keep up motivation if you aren't able to meet

and run or workout with a group. However, we are making the most of the situation, and are glad we can meet for the few days we are able to."

Harris and Rackley both said that it is upsetting that they lost this year of competition as they only get four years to compete at this level. All four members of the cross-country team said that training in a mask had been a new challenge, but the whole team has gotten used to it.

Each runner talked about how important it was to stay connected to the team during this time and that everyone did their part to keep the sport alive. Over the summer, the team held Zoom meetings to catch up with each other and give out support. The team also made small running groups once they returned to campus.

"Competing and participating in running at the collegiate level is one of the greatest privileges I've ever had," Rackley said. "Jared and the team have been great to me, and I would never have thought I would be where I am now four or five years ago. Running and my team is two of the most important things in my life. Right now, I am just focusing on controlling what I can control and getting ready for indoor and outdoor track."

Soon, the team will join various Bulldog athletic programs in reaching the ultimate goal of competing at a high level once again.

# FERRIS FOOTBALL ALUMNI NFL STATS



**GREEN BAY PACKERS**  
**Malik Taylor, Wide Receiver**  
19 snaps  
4 offensive



**MIAMI DOLPHINS**  
**Zach Sieler, Defensive End**  
3 tackles  
1 TFL



**CLEVELAND BROWNS**  
**Tavierre Thomas, Cornerback**  
2 tackles  
1 TFL



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# Battle of the sophomore wideouts: DK Metcalf and Marquise Brown

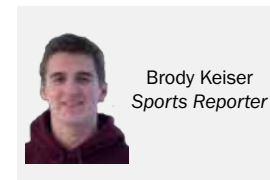
After this Sunday, the NFL will be a quarter of the way through its season.

The first three weeks are behind us. Now, bye weeks will start, and as we saw in Week 2, injuries will begin to play a significant role for each NFL team. That means that fantasy managers will have to pay close attention to their team and try to dominate the waiver wire each week.

I always like to say that you see who drafted an excellent fantasy team starting Week 5. If you lack depth (especially at running back), it will begin to show

as your starters begin to move to your bench due to byes or injuries. With that being said, let us get into this week's column and try to help you decide who to lock into your lineups and who you should temper expectations for this week.

For Week 4 action, we will predict the better player between **Marquise Brown** and **D.K. Metcalf**. Both players are in their second season in the league and have massive upside thanks to their big-play ability, and play on two of the best offenses in the league.



The Baltimore Ravens picked up right where they left off a season ago—dominating the league. Their next challenger is the Washington Football Team. Washington has a sneakily good defense, especially upfront. Led by the exciting rookie Chase Young, Washington can slow down opposing ground games. The Ravens will get theirs on the ground—they are simply too good to be completely shut out of the run game. However, I think this is a game where Lamar Jackson will have to throw more than he usually does. With good coverage linebackers and strong safety play, I expect Mark Andrews to be relatively quiet. That will lead to a big day for Marquise “Hollywood” Brown.

The second-year speedster receiver is Jackson's favorite downfield target. Hollywood is so fast that it only takes one deep ball connection to score a touchdown, and for his fantasy owners to jump with joy. I expect this to be the week Brown delivers a big perfor-

mance for the Ravens.

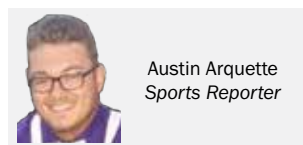
D.K. Metcalf is off to a fantastic start this season. Russell Wilson is playing like the MVP, and Metcalf is truly a stud. But against the Dolphins, I expect the Seahawks to run the ball a lot. Wilson has carried this team on his back to start the season. The Seahawks get a very favorable matchup in Week 4 against Miami. I expect Pete Carroll to give his superstar quarterback a break from carrying the team and have him hand the ball off to Chris Carson and Carlos Hyde and watch as they dominate the Dolphins front. Plus, D.K. will likely draw lockdown perimeter corner Byron Jones, or Xavien Howard if Jones does not suit up. Either way, D.K. will face a tough test. Give me Hollywood this week, and I will pass on D.K.

#### PLAYERS WHO WILL BOOM THIS WEEK:

**James Robinson**  
**Kenyan Drake**

#### PLAYERS WHO WILL BUST THIS WEEK:

**Miles Sanders**  
**Austin Ekeler**



The Seattle Seahawks are flying high right now with the team they have been building the last three years since the legion of boom had dispersed. Now the Seahawks are known as Russell Wilson's team that can come at you in vastly different ways. Wilson's consistency and his playmaking ability are simply unmatched as he can set up and throw anytime.

He can also extend plays and beat you with his legs. This playstyle allows D.K. Metcalf to become a new star wide receiver by using his big frame and catch anything Wilson throws at him.

D.K. Metcalf has played arguably two top defensive teams before this upcoming game in Miami. Even with how consistent Wilson is as a passer, it doesn't take away how consistent Metcalf has been catching the ball and has the big play availability to use that speed to burn defenders.

While Miami has dealt with New England in week one who hardly has any big playmakers anymore and then hosted Buffalo week two, Miami struggled to contain both teams with the newly rebuilt defense. Miami is lacking in the pass rush and doesn't have any ball hawks on the secondary, so in turn, while Seattle will run the ball effectively, they will still throw it too. Especially with Wilson putting up MVP caliber numbers.

I predict that Metcalf will continue his hot streak against Miami as he toasted the number one cornerback in the league, Stephon Gilmore, and made him look silly. Metcalf is no speedster

like Brown, but he has the frame and catch-radius to make up for being a little slower than Brown.

With Kendall Fuller most likely drawing interest to cover Brown in this game, there is also strong safety Landon Collins to cover speed threats deep down the field. Regardless of who matches up with D.K. Metcalf on Miami's secondary, he will be able to make plays and get around that defense as he has the first three weeks of the season. Give me Metcalf in week four and pass on “Hollywood” Brown.

#### PLAYERS WHO WILL BOOM THIS WEEK:

**Stefon Diggs**  
**Joshua Kelley**

#### PLAYERS WHO WILL BUST THIS WEEK:

**James Conner**  
**Jonathan Taylor**

## Learning a new system

### Guard Mallory McCartney has confidence in new Coach Westendorp

**D'Andre Head**  
Interim Sports Reporter

Many changes have come to the women's basketball team in the last six months.

The women's basketball season had a wild and unexpected end due to COVID-19. After finishing the season 21-8, the team was in Springfield, Missouri, for their first NCAA Division II tournament appearance when the championship was canceled. After traveling back to Michigan, the team soon faced another massive change with the resignation of head coach Kendra Faustin, who became the athletic director at Comstock Park.

While the Bulldogs have been working hard to progress towards a new start in January, they now have a new head coach to join them. The women's team welcomed the new coach Kurt Westendorp on May 28.

A new coach could be intimidat-

ing, but sophomore guard Mallory McCartney gave insight on the changes that are ahead.

“Having a new coach this year is definitely different and scary in ways,” McCartney said. “Usually, you walk into a school with your culture already built, but instead, we get to be a part of creating a new one and building a new legacy, which is something I am very excited for.”

Westendorp previously spent two years as the Bulldogs' top assistant coach (2010-2012).

Before moving back to Ferris, Westendorp had been the head coach at William Jessup University in Rocklin, California. He spent four years building their program and coaching them into being a national contender on the NAIA level.

Westendorp was also associate head coach at the NCAA Division I Valparaiso University for four years. The Valparaiso Crusaders

competed against schools such as Notre Dame, Michigan and Duke and beat Big Ten Conference member Indiana.

As the Bulldogs work hard, McCartney feels confident in Westendorp as their new coach.

“Coach Kurt has so much experience and a long history of winning,” McCartney said. “Not only is he going to bring us the little things such as positivity, confidence, and grit on the court, but already in such a short time, we have been able to establish trust with him that will help us succeed on and off the court. He's a true teacher of the game, and I couldn't be more excited to start our season with him and coach Jas leading us.”

As the women's basketball team slowly but steadily approach their season, it will be interesting to see how Westendorp applies his experiences to this rising Bulldog team.

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*Updated August 13, 2020*

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

# OPINIONS

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## EDITOR'S COLUMN: Have hard conversations

By Cora Hall



I'm not really one to seek out confrontation, especially when it comes to my family.

I think it ties back to my parents teaching me to respect those in authority over me from a young age, whether it was them, my grandparents, or teachers. That's not a bad thing. You should respect those who have more experience in life than you or who have a position of superiority.

But this year really made me realize that I can show those close to me respect while still disagreeing with them or having a conversation about why I disagree with them. I've known this for a while, yet I still tend to skirt around topics that might get uncomfortable. And that, my friends, is my privilege showing. I grew up in an environment that allowed me to avoid uncomfortable topics. I went to a high school of mainly white kids and I never wanted to step on other peoples' toes or confront others, but looking back, I should have.

There were times I just felt like the token Asian kid at school. Peers would ask me for help with math jokingly, even though I'm terrible at it. Squinty eyes were made at me, or jokes about how I can't see. I let it slide, because that's just how it was.

I shouldn't have had to feel that way. But no one wants to be the kid who "overreacts" to "harmless jokes." It still happens in college. Even my siblings crack jokes like that. That's how ingrained in our heads it is that our ethnicity is just something that gets joked about.

When I think about how this bothers me now, it really hits home what Black people in our country go through

on a much more serious scale. What I face as an Asian woman is practically nothing compared to what Black people go through every day in America.

I'm an avid news reader, naturally, so I've read countless stories this year about the experiences of Black people in our country. I've read countless stories about what is happening in our current administration and our cities. I would consider myself to be decently educated on our current events.

However, I wasn't always like this. As a teen, I hardly read the news. I wanted to know more about politics or current events, but I never made the effort. This year and the astounding number of tragedies and injustices that have happened really hit me like a slap in the face: I could no longer be uneducated. I cannot say I care about my friends who are people of color and not educate myself.

Educating yourself is just the first step, though. I haven't taken the next step as much as I feel like I should have, and that's having hard, meaningful conversations with those close to you. I've had several conversations this summer with my older brother and parents, since we had ample time together in lockdown and usually ate dinner together as a family.

Those conversations seemed productive at times, but other times I kept my mouth shut. I struggled to understand why that was my first reaction; I wasn't scared of what they thought of me. I know they love me and would at least listen. But there was still that hesitation to say anything.

I realized that my hesitation was strongest when I was the most upset by something they had said. After reading and hearing what I have, I've become very passionate about many issues. I was afraid to speak out of turn and disrespect them when I was upset.

That's something I'm still learning, how to be able to address something like that properly when I'm fired up about it. It's a difficult balance, speaking respectfully when your first reaction is to be angry and upset. But it's hard not to be angry when people are dying.

The most productive conversation I had this summer was with my grandmother. I had gone over to her house to pick up some of my stuff and she started talking about the issues she believed there were with mail-in voting. Oh boy.

But I took the time and sat down with her and shared the things I had read and researched. I ended up sitting there with her for an hour, talking about other issues along the way. The craziest thing was, she didn't get upset with me for it. In fact, at the end of our conversation, she said it gave her hope for the next generation.

Our parents and grandparents have gone through so many experiences, and a lot of them are much different than ours. They had entire lifetimes before we even existed, in a world that most of us can't even comprehend. The world has changed so much in the last 20 years and I think we sometimes forget that our parents and grandparents at our age lived much different lives.

They have a lot of wisdom to impart on us, but that doesn't mean we don't have wisdom to share with them, too. Our society becomes better when we listen to one another.

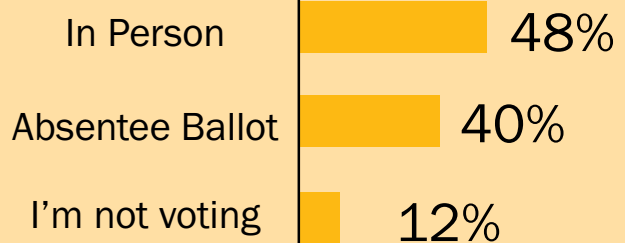
It's our job to educate ourselves and the people around us. It's not an option to sit on the sidelines and watch anymore.

Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Assistant

## TORCH POLL RESULTS



How are you voting in the election this year?  
75 votes



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# Don't stay silent

Talking about suicide and mental health is important



Rebecca Vanderkooi  
Interim News Reporter

As September comes to a close, I want to take a moment to talk about suicide prevention month.

Mental health and especially suicide are too often taboo topics people tend to avoid discussing. To stop the stigma and provide help and resources to those struggling we desperately need to talk about suicide and mental health.

This issue should be of special importance to college students because according to the American College Health Association (ACHA) suicide is the second most common cause of death amongst college students. In addition, suicide rates have tripled since the 1950s among individuals ages 15-24.

Now more than ever it's so important to look out for one another. A study done in June by the CDC found that suicidal ideations are in higher numbers among adults due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If someone you care about seems like they are struggling don't be afraid to ask how they're doing, or if they're feeling suicidal. You won't be putting ideas in their head and your caring might mean the world to them or even save their life.

Suicide awareness hits close to home for me as I am sure it does for some of you in one way or another. Throughout my life I have struggled

with my mental health and more than once have reached a point where ending my life seemed like a viable option. I'm so grateful I had a friend who saw I was struggling and was willing to have what could have been an uncomfortable conversation, asking me if I was feeling suicidal.

She helped me to get help and showed me that I wasn't alone, and I am forever thankful for that. I want to encourage anyone who is struggling or who loves someone who is having a hard time that there is hope and there is help.

You can call or text the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at (800) 273-8255. A wonderful resource for LGBTQ+ identifying individuals is The Trevor Project. They have a phone hotline, an instant messaging chat through their website as well as a text service. I personally have used their text service and it was a huge help to me. I had a lot of fear and apprehension regarding using a hotline, but I was pleasantly surprised by both the professionalism and care they exhibited towards me. They kept me on the line for hours and helped to connect me to local resources to get help.

Ferris also has resources available to students. Due to COVID-19 all therapy is being done virtually through teletherapy. To schedule an appointment call (231) 591-5968 or send an email to ThePCC@ferris.edu.

If you get nothing else out of this article, I hope you remember that you matter, mental health matters the world is a better place with you in it.



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