



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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LAKE EXPRESS DONATES FERRY AND TERMINAL USE TO BENEFIT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY'S ANNIS WATER RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Public invited to attend open house and special excursions May 5, 2012

Muskegon, Michigan – (April 12, 2012) Lake Express, the first high speed auto/passenger ferry to operate on a route within the Continental United States will play host to a special event that will serve to honor and to raise funds for Grand Valley State University's Annis Water Resources Institute on May 5. The event will occur at the Lake Express Muskegon Terminal located at 1918 Lakeshore Drive, Muskegon, MI.

The family-friendly event includes children's activities and information on how AWRI and the Lake Express promote Muskegon's Blue Water Economy. The Lake Express will be holding two special one-hour excursions. Reserved tickets will allow a limited number of people the special opportunity to be treated to Lake Express' unique blend of modern amenities and speed. (To reserve tickets, individuals can visit www.lake-express.com/event)

"Louie the Laker," Grand Valley State University's mascot will be on hand and free facepainting by La-La Land Facepainting will be offered.

Members of the Lakeside District, Lake Express' neighborhood as well as staff from the Muskegon County Convention and Visitors Bureau will be on hand to assist with the festivities of the day.

Food will be available for sale at the terminal – made available by Greek Tony's of Muskegon and the Lakeside District.



Recommended donation to tour the ferry - \$2.00 per person

Cost for one-hour Lake Express Excursions:

Age 12 and up \$12.00 per person
Age 4-11 \$8.00 per person
Age 3 and under Free

All proceeds from the event will benefit AWRI's mission to integrate research, education, and outreach to enhance and preserve freshwater resources.

Timeline of events:

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Open house in terminal, tours of Lake Express
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Ticketed excursion on Lake Express
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Open house in terminal
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Tours of Lake Express
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Ticketed excursion on Lake Express

About Grand Valley State University's Annis Water Resources Institute

The Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute is a multidisciplinary research organization within GVSU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

By integrating research, education, and outreach, AWRI strives to enhance and preserve freshwater resources.

Recent AWRI highlights:

- Installation of the Muskegon Lake Buoy, providing real-time data on the water quality conditions of Muskegon Lake: <http://www.gvsu.edu/wri/buoy/>
- Monitoring the ecological success of the Muskegon Lake shoreline restoration project
- Identifying ways to improve reproductive success of lake sturgeon in the Muskegon River Watershed
- Conducting research to determine appropriate restoration actions for cleaning up toxic sediments in Muskegon Lake and its tributaries
- Development of watershed management plans through west Michigan
- Exposing over 140,000 passengers to hands-on learning experiences on two research vessels: W.G. Jackson and D.J. Angus
- Featured on Discover Channel's Profile Series
- Helping refine the Hydraid™ Biosand Water Filter to provide potable water in developing countries.



For additional information please visit www.qvsu.edu/wri/

About Lake Express

Entering its ninth year of service, the Lake Express Ferry transports more than 100,000 pleasure and business travelers across Lake Michigan from Muskegon, Michigan to Milwaukee, Wisconsin each year.

The high-speed auto ferry is the only one of its kind operating within the continental United States. It is equipped to comfortably transport nearly 250 passengers, 46 vehicles and 12 motorcycles. Conversions may be made to accommodate a total of 114 motorcycles.

Powered by four 3,000 hp diesel engines, the 192-foot-long catamaran crosses Lake Michigan in 2 ½ hours – a fraction of the time it would take to drive the 300 miles around.

For additional information, or to book reservations, call 866-914-1010 or visit www.lake-express.com

For Lake Express photos and logos, visit www.lake-express.com/media

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