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Former Senator to Speak at Commencement

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Former Senator to Speak at Commencement

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 Print Friendly

University Will Award First Doctoral Degrees in School History

Lindenwood University will hold its commencement exercises May 16 and 17 at the Family Arena in St. Charles; the keynote speaker during undergraduate ceremonies on May 17 will be former U.S. Senator Alan Dixon.

St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann will speak at Baccalaureate and graduate commencement ceremonies on May 16, at which the university will award its first doctoral degrees—in education. The doctor of education degree program was launched in 2007.

The undergraduate commencement May 17 and the Baccalaureate/graduate commencement (at 7:30 p.m. on May 16) will both be held at the Family Arena in St. Charles. More than 800 graduating students will take part in the undergraduate ceremony at 10 a.m. Saturday. Approximately 650 students are expected to take part in the graduate ceremony.

Dixon was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1980 and served until 1993, prior to which he served in the Illinois House of Representatives from 1951 to 1963 and the Illinois Senate from 1963 to 1971 and as Illinois' treasurer from 1971 to 1977 and secretary of state from 1977 to 1981. He is currently a partner in the law firm of Bryan Cave in St. Louis.

Ehlmann holds the rare distinction of having served in all three branches of government. He was a member of the Missouri House of Representatives from 1989 to 1993 and the Missouri Senate from 1993 to 2001, serving two terms as the Republican floor leader in the Senate. He served in the judiciary as associate circuit judge from 2001 to 2003 and circuit judge during 2003 for the 11th Circuit Court. Ehlmann took office as county executive in 2007, prior to which he served as the county's director of administration.

Student speakers at the commencement ceremony will be undergraduate Megan Shipley, president of the Lindenwood Student Government Association, and graduate student Kelly Kothe.

Receiving the university's Alumni Merit Award (at the May 16 ceremony) will be Martha Ackmann (class of 1973), award-winning author of "The Mercury 13: The True Story of Thirteen Women and the Dream of Space Flight."