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Lindenwood University - Campus News

St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay to speak at Commencement

04/27/2010

Lindenwood University will hold its annual Commencement exercises Friday and Saturday, May 14 and 15, at the Family Arena in St. Charles. St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay will be the keynote speaker at the May 15 Commencement ceremony, while David Steward, founder and chairman of the board of World Wide Technology in St. Louis, will deliver the Baccalaureate address on Friday evening.

Undergraduate Commencement will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 15, while Baccalaureate and Graduate Commencement will be at 7:30 p.m., the night before. Both ceremonies will be at the St. Charles County Family Arena, at 2002 Arena Parkway in St. Charles and are open to the public.

The ceremonies will include students who graduated between August 2009 and March 2010 and who applied to graduate between May and August 2010. Overall, 3,566 graduates are eligible to participate, with 1,639 bachelor's degrees, 1,798 master's degrees, 93 specialist degrees, 35 doctoral degrees and 1 certificate. Participating in the undergraduate ceremony will be 885 graduates, while 739 are slated to participate in the graduate ceremony.

Francis Slay, the 45th mayor of St. Louis, was sworn in to his first term on April 17, 2001. He has since been reelected twice (2005 and 2009) and is only the fourth mayor in St. Louis' history to be elected to three terms. The Slay Administration and its public and private partners have received national and international recognition for St. Louis' renaissance, which has been marked by residential growth and the revitalization of neighborhoods.

Prior to being elected mayor, Slay served on the St. Louis Board of Aldermen for 10 years and was its president from 1995 to 2001. A graduate of St. Louis University School of Law, Slay practiced law from 1981 to 2001 at the law firm of Guilfoil, Petzall & Shoemaker.

Prior to starting World Wide Technology, Steward held various senior level management positions with Wagner Electric, Missouri Pacific Railroad and Federal Express Corporation. In 1990, Steward founded his company with 4,000 square feet of office space and a desire to distribute computer hardware, software and services to the Federal Government. World Wide Technology has since grown to become the leading supplier of advanced technology solutions to the U.S. government with 1,200 employees, more than 1.5 million square feet of facilities, and annual revenue approaching \$3 billion.