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MOTHER AND DAUGHTER TO GRADUATE TOGETHER AT LINDENWOOD COMMENCEMENT

May 11, 2016

Lindenwood University's spring 2016 commencement ceremonies on Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 14, will include more than 1,300 participants, including a mother and daughter, Debra and LaDonde' Pulley.

The duo will each receive a Bachelor of Science degree in information technology from the university's Accelerated Degree Programs. LaDonde' Pulley said she wanted to get her degree to advance her career for herself and her children. Similarly, Debra Pulley stated that getting her degree opens a new chapter in her life and is more meaningful because she went on the journey with her daughter.

The Pulleys will take part in the undergraduate ceremony at 10 a.m. on May 14 at the St. Charles Family Arena. A graduate ceremony for students receiving master's, specialist, and doctoral degrees will be held at 7 p.m. on May 14, also in the Family Arena. More than 850 students are slated to take part in the undergraduate ceremony, while 500 are scheduled to walk in the graduate ceremony. Approximately 1,900 degrees will be conferred for students who finished their coursework or will have finished their coursework in March, May, June, and August.

The keynote speaker for Friday's ceremony will be Dr. Billi Patzius, interim dean in the School of Human Services, and the speaker in Saturday's ceremony will be Dr. Travis McMaken, associate professor of religion in the School of Humanities. Patzius, who will be assistant dean in the School of Sciences in the fall, joined the university's faculty in 2007 and was named Professor of the Year by the Lindenwood Student Government Association in 2014. McMaken, who joined Lindenwood's faculty in 2011, serves as chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies program and was named the university's Scholar of the Year for 2013-14.

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