

KAPLAN UNIVERSITY HOLDS COMMENCEMENT FOR 2,300 GRADUATES EARNING ONLINE DEGREES

Newsweek Chairman and Editor-in Chief Richard M. Smith Delivers Commencement Address

Coral Springs, FL, Feb. 24, 2007 – Richard M. Smith, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of *Newsweek*, congratulated Kaplan University's more than 2,300 online graduates and told those in attendance during Saturday's commencement ceremony they should follow through on promises, be ready for change, and keep learning.

"You've already taken the first steps on the learning curve—you've learned to learn," said Smith, an industry leader who was instrumental in creating the new Kaplan University/*Newsweek* MBA. "With advances in technology...and with your own lifestyle choices, you'll have to be ready to learn all over again."

The graduates traveled to the ceremony at the Coral Springs Center for the Arts from around the country. They donned their caps and gowns and met classmates they have only known through their Internet-based courses. The graduates were awarded master's, bachelor's and associate's degrees and certificates in paralegal studies, business administration and education, among other fields.

"Today's commencement marks a contrast between conventional and cutting edge," Kaplan University President Andrew S. Rosen said to the graduates. "The customs surrounding commencement are rooted in history, but the journey our online graduates took to pursue their educational goals is anything but traditional. A quality education delivered through innovative online learning is the path that worked for you. Today's technology helped make your journey a success."

Rosen highlighted the successes of several students, including Vicky Blair, a former crime scene investigator with the Wichita Falls (TX) Police Department, who is among the first graduates of the University's Master of Criminal Justice program. Rosen also recognized Dawn Matlachowski, a great-grandmother from Warroad, MN, who earned her associate's degree in paralegal studies, is working towards her bachelor's degree and hopes to one day finish law school. Additionally, Rosen applauded "The Pago Pago Four"—Sonny Leomiti, Chamagne Lito, Evelyn Fruean, and To'aiva Tago—who teach in a K-8 school in Pago Pago in the islands that make up American Samoa in the South Pacific. The four, who were not able to attend the Florida ceremony, earned master's degrees in Teaching and Learning. In addition to these students, the University also recognized more than 100 graduates with Academic Excellence Awards based on cumulative grade point averages of 4.0.

Three faculty members—Criminal Justice instructor Dena Weiss, Legal Studies instructor Laura Catron, and Criminal Justice instructor Robert Hanser—received Outstanding Faculty Awards for their commitment to their students and colleagues. More than 150 faculty and administrators attended the ceremony.

For those who could not attend, video of the ceremony will be available online at www.kaplanuniversity.edu. The University holds two commencements a year, with its summer ceremony set to take place in Chicago on Aug. 4.

Kaplan University, based in Davenport, Iowa, is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). The University currently serves more than 26,000 online and on-ground students with support centers in south Florida, Chicago and Phoenix. For more information about Kaplan University and its programs, visit www.kaplanuniversitynews.com.

About Kaplan Higher Education and Kaplan, Inc.

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Note to Media: Interviews and commencement photos are available.

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