

# FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**  
January 6, 2006

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## **FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCES RECORD PARTICIPATION DURING FALL GRADUATION!**

**Columbus, Ohio** – Fall 2005 Commencement caps off a year of record achievements. This past year began with the largest single class graduating from Franklin University during the first Commencement Ceremony of the year.

In September, the University marked yet another record achievement when over 7,000 students enrolled for a single trimester, comprising face-to-face and online enrollment.

Now, as Franklin University prepares for another Commencement Ceremony it marks another milestone—a new record-setting number of graduates in a single class. On January 8, 2006, the 121st Commencement Ceremony will graduate an impressive 681 students, with almost 500 students walking during the ceremony.

Senior Vice President in California for State Farm Mutual Insurance Companies and President and CEO of State Farm General Insurance Company, Gregory Jones will address the graduates. Jones is responsible for all insurance operations for the state of California. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the State Farm General Insurance Company, the California Chamber of Commerce, the California Business Roundtable, and Operation Hope. He is chairman of the board of the Los Angeles Urban League and the California Business for Education Excellence, as well as past chairman of the Junior Achievement of Southern California. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Urban League and a current member of the Board of Advisors at Franklin University.

In addition to being Franklin's commencement speaker, Jones will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Community Leadership.

Franklin University  
121st Commencement Ceremony  
Sunday, Jan. 8, 2006, 2 p.m.  
Veterans Memorial Auditorium  
Speaker: Gregory Jones, Senior Vice President in California for  
State Farm Mutual Insurance Companies and President &  
CEO of State Farm General Insurance Company

**Honorary Degrees**  
Gregory W. Jones - Honorary Doctorate of  
Community Leadership  
William H. Eells - Honorary Doctorate of  
Community Leadership

William Eells will join Jones in receiving an honorary degree. Franklin will present Eells, the former Ford Motor Company Regional Government Affairs Manager, Blue Cross of Northeast Ohio chairman, Ohio Governor's Cabinet Member, and member of the Natural Council for the Arts, with an Honorary Doctorate of Community Leadership.

**Graduates**

Total graduates: 681

Central Ohio undergraduate students: 324

Community College Alliance students: 149

Graduate students: 208

eArmyU students: 13 (this figure is included in above numbers)

“This has been a great year for Franklin University,” said Franklin President Paul Otte. “We continue to achieve record numbers while staying true to our commitment to providing the highest quality education, and to securing strong relationships through the Community College Alliance and eArmyU Programs.”

Franklin’s Community College Alliance (CCA) was founded in 1998 and has allowed Franklin to extend its online bachelor’s degree programs to students at more than 230 community colleges in the United States and the Bahamas. In addition, Franklin is one of the original 29 institutions to partner with the U.S. Army to provide education opportunities to active-duty soldiers stationed at home and abroad.

*Founded in 1902, Franklin University is central Ohio’s leading and most experienced educator of adult students. Annually, nearly 10,000 students attend Franklin, both on-campus and online. Franklin offers 16 undergraduate majors and three graduate programs, and graduates more than 1,500 students annually.*

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