

FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY NEWS RELEASE

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FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY DELIVERS THE PERFECT SUMMER CELEBRATION!

Columbus, Ohio – Franklin University, one of the leading educators of working adults in central Ohio, will deliver the perfect way to spend a hot summer afternoon when nearly 400 degree candidates receive their diplomas in a Commencement Ceremony held at Veterans Memorial Auditorium on Sunday, August 12.

David Decker, Ph.D., will address the graduates. A leader in international business and academic programs, Dr. Decker became Franklin University's fourth president on August 1, 2007. He has previously served as the Vice President for Global Academic Programs and Dean of the School of Management at the New York Institute of Technology (NYIT). He also has international teaching experience in China, Malaysia, Russia, Mexico, Spain, Germany, Brazil and Jordan.

At NYIT, Dr. Decker was responsible for directing programs serving more than 4,000 undergraduate and graduate students on two campuses and in countries across the world. He previously spent 10 years at Youngstown State University in a variety of roles, including Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship, Founding Director of the Williamson Center for International Business, and Interim Dean of the Williamson College of Business Administration.

In addition to his academic credentials, Dr. Decker has extensive experience as a corporate executive. He served as President and Chief Executive Officer of a multi-million-dollar manufacturing company and held vice-presidential positions in a Fortune 200 company.

A native of Philadelphia, Dr. Decker earned his Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Kansas, his M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and his B.A. from Grinnell College.

Franklin University
126th Commencement Ceremony
Sunday, August 12, 2007, 2 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Auditorium
300 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Speaker: **Dr. David Decker**

Honorary Degrees
Donald B. Shackelford and Robert J. Weiler
Honorary Doctorate of Community Leadership

During the 126th Commencement Ceremony, **Donald B. Shackelford and Dr. Robert J. Weiler** will both receive an Honorary Doctorate of Community Leadership from Franklin University. Donald Shackelford has achieved success in a variety of enterprises. After serving as a captain in the United States Air Force, Shackelford spent 28 years as Chair of the State Savings Bank in Columbus, Ohio, then became Chair of the Central Ohio Affiliate of Fifth Third Bank after the two banks merged in 1998. He also spent 33 years as a Director of McLagan Partners, a management consulting company in Chicago, and two decades with Marsh & McLennan Real Estate Advisors.

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Shackelford chaired the Ohio Savings & Loan League, The Ohio State University Hospitals Board, and was President of both Columbus Neighborhood Housing Services and the Thrift Institutions Advisory Council. He currently serves as a director of Progressive Corporation and Diamond Hill Investments, as well as on the Boards of Abercrombie & Fitch, Worthington Foods, Inc., Limited Brands, Inc. and The Jeffrey Company.

Dedicated to non-profit enterprises, Mr. Shackelford has served on the Board of Trustees for Denison University, United Way of Central Ohio and the Columbus Museum of Art.

He earned a B.A. in Economics from Denison University in 1959, then was an MBA Baker Scholar at the Harvard Business School. Mr. Shackelford also received an Honorary Degree of Business Administration from The Ohio State University in 1998.

Dr. Robert J. Weiler has been a beacon of leadership and philanthropy in central Ohio for five decades. A real estate appraisal professional, he joined The Robert Weiler Company real estate firm, founded by his father, in 1957 and currently serves as Chairman of the Board.

He graduated with honors from the University of Arizona and received a Master's Degree in real estate in 1964 and a doctorate degree in finance in 1968, both from The Ohio State University. Dr. Weiler was awarded a Juris Doctorate Degree from Capital University Law School in 1983 and was admitted to the Ohio Bar. He has served on the faculty of Ohio State and Franklin University and continues to teach at Capital University Law School. He is also a contributing editor for *The Appraisal of Real Estate* and has held the presidency of the Columbus Board of Realtors, the Ohio Chapter 3 of the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers, and the Columbus Chapter of the Society of Real Estate Appraisers.

Always active in the community, Dr. Weiler has served as President of the Columbus Board of Education and currently serves on the boards of Campus Partners, the Central Ohio Transportation Authority (COTA), the Center of Science and Industry (COSI), the Columbus Metropolitan YMCA, the Columbus Urban League, the Affordable Housing Trust and the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing. He has been a longtime volunteer with the United Way and continues to be actively involved with I Know I Can, for which he was a past president and founding member. Along with other employees of The Robert Weiler Company, Dr. Weiler acts as a mentor to students at Windsor Academy. In 2005, he was presented the Red Cross Humanitarian of the Year Award. Dr. Weiler and his wife have four children and fourteen grandchildren.

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 240 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, more than 10,000 students attend Franklin, both on campus and online. Franklin offers 19 undergraduate majors and three graduate programs, including the Vantage MBA® and graduates more than 1,500 students annually.

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