

# FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release:** February 19, 2007

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## **INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, CURRICULUM LEADER RETURNS TO OHIO TO LEAD FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY'S 10,000 STUDENTS**

**Columbus, Ohio** - Franklin University has chosen a leader in international business and academic programs to be the fourth president in the history of the Columbus-based school that has been a pioneer in developing curricula for adult students in central Ohio and around the world.

David Decker, Ph.D., was approved by unanimous vote of the Franklin Board of Trustees on February 10, 2007 to become president of Franklin University. In anticipation for Franklin's upcoming self-study and re-accreditation visits, Dr. Decker will begin work at Franklin as President-elect on June 1 and be named President on August 1. Dr. Decker currently serves as the vice president for Global Academic Programs and dean of the School of Management at New York Institute of Technology.

Greg Lashutka, chairman of the Board of Trustees, introduced Dr. Decker to the Franklin University community today. In addition to his leadership roles at NYIT and previously at Youngstown State University, Dr. Decker has international teaching experience in China, Malaysia, Russia, Mexico, Spain, Germany, Brazil and Jordan. He is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese and also speaks Russian.

"Dr. Decker's focus on global programming and technology provide a perfect match for a university which has students residing in 48 states and 68 countries, around the world," said John Ruhlin, chair of the search committee appointed by the board. "The committee and the Board believe his wide-ranging academic and business experience provides him with the skills necessary for a long and successful presidency at the University. He is an accomplished business professional and an outstanding administrator who has served the New York Institute of Technology with distinguished leadership, enthusiasm and creativity."

Dr. Decker said he was attracted to the Franklin post because of the school's mission of meeting the needs of adult students who have the ambition to continue their education in combination with other responsibilities.

"I am honored to be chosen to serve as President of Franklin, the most innovative provider of adult education in the state and perhaps the nation. I believe in the Franklin mission and I'm proud to be leading a university which makes such a strong contribution to central Ohio and to society in general. Franklin truly changes the lives of students, and it's exciting to play a part in that."

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Dr. Decker will succeed Paul Otte, president for the past 20 years. Otte will transition into the role of executive director of the Franklin University Leadership Center on Aug. 1.

Dr. Decker said, “Otte typifies the spirit of Franklin University—progressive and student-focused. In the past two decades he has positioned Franklin as a dynamic and pioneering provider of adult education, with high academic quality and relentless dedication to the needs of individual students.”

As vice president for Global Academic Programs and dean of the School of Management at NYIT, Dr. Decker is responsible for directing programs serving over 4,000 undergraduate and graduate students on two campuses and in countries across the world. He joined NYIT as Dean in 2001 and was subsequently promoted to his current position. He has played a key role in the internationalization of NYIT and in the development of its online presence. Prior to joining NYIT, Dr. Decker spent 10 years at Youngstown State University in a variety of roles. He held an endowed chair in entrepreneurship, served as founding director of the Williamson Center for International Business, served as interim dean of the Williamson College of Business Administration and played an active role in the business and economic development of the community.

Dr. Decker has also held faculty positions at three other universities. In addition to his academic credentials, Dr. Decker has had extensive experience as a corporate executive. He served as president and chief executive officer of a \$130 million manufacturing company and held vice presidential positions in management information systems and marketing at a Fortune 200 company. He has also conducted executive development programs in Asia, Europe and Latin America.

A native of Philadelphia, Dr. Decker is the author of two books on economic and business issues in Latin America, along with many articles and presentations on higher education, marketing and literature. He earned his Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Kansas; and his M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania; and his B.A. from Grinnell College.

The national search for a new president was conducted by the Franklin University Board of Trustees presidential search committee with the assistance of Korn/Ferry International, an executive search firm with experience in both higher education as well as Fortune 500 placement. The national search which began this past spring, brought forth over 50 well suited candidates. Interviews were conducted with six of these candidates, resulting in the final decision to present Dr. Decker to the Board of Trustees on February 10.

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"The search committee benefited greatly from the information and opinions presented at these fact-finding interviews, not only regarding the desired attributes and character of our next president, but also about the strengths and opportunities of the university" said Ruhlin.

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 18 undergraduate majors and three graduate programs, and graduates more than 1,500 students annually. Further information regarding Franklin University can be found at [www.franklin.edu](http://www.franklin.edu).

The Franklin University Leadership Center serves as both a catalyst and a major resource dedicated to raising the level of leadership in central Ohio. The Leadership Center serves organizations in the four sectors of business, community, government and education. Leadership resources and information can be found at [www.leadership.franklin.edu](http://www.leadership.franklin.edu).

**-Attachments-**

## Franklin At a Glance

- Campuses** Downtown, Westerville, Dublin, and Virtu@l
- Enrollment** Franklin graduates more than 10,000 students each year
- Majors** 18 undergraduate and 3 graduate majors available on campus 15 undergraduate and the Vantage MBA<sup>®</sup> available online
- Quality** Franklin's quality academic programs are updated continually to reflect the continually changing business world.
- Faculty** Franklin's Faculty are professionals who practice what they teach, are accessible to you, and have a wealth of real world experience
- Service** Franklin's Student-centered approach to education features Student Services Associates (SSA) who will assist you from application to graduation.
- Resources** The Student Learning Center offers a variety of learning services, including testing, study skills and free tutoring.
- The Franklin University Nationwide Library Franklin's library joined the OhioLINK consortium of Ohio Colleges and Universities in 2002, enabling access to the wealth of locally provided and OhioLINK services and resources via the Franklin Library Web page.
- GoArmyEd** The Army's educational initiative designed to offer eligible enlisted soldiers the opportunity to work toward their college degree or certificate anytime, anywhere.

## **Biography**

### **Dr. David Decker**

David R. Decker is Vice President for Global Academic Programs and also Dean of the School of Management at the New York Institute of Technology in New York. He joined NYIT as Dean in 2001, and was subsequently promoted to his current position. Dr. Decker supervises programs serving over 4000 undergraduate and graduate students on two New York campuses and at locations in Canada, Asia, the Middle East and through online offerings. Dr. Decker has played a key role in the internationalization of the New York Institute of Technology and in the development of its online presence. He holds faculty rank as a Full Professor of Management

Before joining the New York Institute of Technology, Decker spent ten years at Youngstown State University in a variety of roles. He held an endowed chair in entrepreneurship, served as Founding Director of the Williamson Center for International Business, served as interim Dean of the Williamson College of Business Administration, and played an active role in the business and economic development of the community. He held faculty rank as a Full Professor of Marketing throughout his tenure at Youngstown State.

Decker has also held faculty positions at three other universities, and has international teaching experience in China, Malaysia, Russia, Mexico, Spain, Germany, Brazil and Jordan. He is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese and also speaks Russian.

In addition to his academic credentials, Decker has had extensive experience as a corporate executive. He served as President and Chief Executive Officer of a \$130 million manufacturing company, and held vice presidential positions in management information systems and marketing at a Fortune 200 company. He has conducted executive development programs in Asia, Europe and Latin America.

A native of Philadelphia, Decker is the author of two books on economic and business issues in Latin America, along with many articles and presentations on higher education, marketing and literature. He earned the B.A. degree from Grinnell College, the M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Kansas, and the M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.