COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY: May 2017

Dear Spring 2017 Graduation Candidates:

Kent State University at Geauga invites all its spring 2017 degree candidates, and students who began their academic program at the Geauga Campus, to participate in our annual May Commencement Ceremony. Associate and Baccalaureate Degree students can choose to participate in the Geauga Campus & Regional Academic Center Ceremony held on Saturday afternoon of spring finals.

In order for your Commencement Ceremony to be of the highest quality, we ask that you read the information listed below:

**Geauga Campus Commencement Ceremony**

**Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 4:00 pm. (All degrees)**
Parkside Church, 7100 Pettibone Road, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

**RSVP & Audience Tickets**

- Graduation candidates should complete an on-line RSVP request survey. The survey link is listed below. For best results, please copy and then paste the link into your internet browser.
  
  http://kentstate.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_efUqQcc5zojFsJ7

- The information requested will help the Geauga Campus Commencement Committee plan for the ceremony. **Please complete the RSVP survey no later than April 7, 2017.**
  Please contact Dave Chappell at (440) 834-3730 for RSVP related questions.

- No guest tickets will be required for this year’s Commencement Ceremony. Please contact Mr. Ben Morrison (440) 834-3726 for information on seating for accessibility challenged guests.
Caps and Gowns
- The University Bookstore will visit the Kent State Geauga (Clark Commons Lounge) on April 19 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- The University Bookstore will also visit the Regional Academic Center in Twinsburg (front of student Lounge) on April 24 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
- Caps, gowns, and tassels may be purchased at the Kent Campus Bookstore Monday through Saturday. For additional information and hours of bookstore operation, please call, the Kent Campus University Bookstore, (330) 672-2762.

Geauga Campus Rehearsal
- The rehearsal is on Friday, May 12th, 2017 at 9 am at the Parkside Church in Chagrin Falls. Participation is strongly encouraged. It is important for all candidates to attend in order to verify processional order, seating arrangements, and program participation. A continental breakfast will be offered prior to the rehearsal starting at 8:30 am on location.

Graduation Day
- You should arrive no later than 3:00 pm on May 13th. The dressing room “green room” is in the Church’s Children’s wing. Campus staff will be on hand to guide students. The Processional (formal start of the event) begins at 4:00 pm.

What to wear
- Make sure to bring or wear your cap and gown to Commencement.

Diploma Information:
- Your name will appear on your diploma as listed on your FLASHLINE account. If it is incorrect, please notify the Registrar’s Office at (330) 672-3131.
- Diplomas may be picked in person at the Office of the Kent Campus University Registrar or mailed to your permanent address approximately six to seven weeks following the ceremony. Please use the FLASHLINE web portal to update your permanent address. Questions should be directed to the University Registrar’s Office (330) 672-3131.
- Please contact Dave Chappell (440) 834-3730 at the Geauga Campus if questions arise.

Graduation Honors and Separate Ceremonies

Graduation with Institutional Honors – Bachelor’s Degree
- Candidates for bachelor’s degrees who demonstrate high levels of scholarship throughout their undergraduate years graduate with institutional honors. Graduation with institutional honors is conferred on students who earn a baccalaureate with a GPA of at least:

  - 3.500 *cum laude*
  - 3.700 *magna cum laude*
  - 3.900 *summa cum laude*
Institutional Honors

- Institutional honors are based solely on the GPA earned in all coursework taken at Kent State University, including original grades forgiven and/or recalculated under other policies. A minimum of 60 semester hours must be earned at Kent State University to qualify. For the purposes of computing the final GPA and determining honors awards, the GPA is extended to three decimal places and not rounded up. Honor citations are inscribed on diplomas as follows: cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude. Honors candidates will be distinguished at the commencement ceremony based on all their institutional academic work completed prior to those courses taken during their final term of enrollment.

- Honor cords are for students graduating with a Baccalaureate Degree. There is no charge for honor cords. The Kent Campus will send the honor cords to the Geauga Campus for students who participate at the Geauga Campus ceremony. Please email Dave Chappell (dchappel@kent.edu) to request delivery of honor cords to the Geauga Campus.

Graduation with Distinction – Associates Degrees

- Candidates for associate degrees who demonstrate high levels of scholarship through their coursework will graduate "with distinction." "With distinction" is awarded when students achieve a minimum 3.500 GPA for all undergraduate coursework at Kent State University. In order for students to be considered for graduation "with distinction" and have it inscribed on their diploma, a minimum 32 credit hours must be completed at Kent State University. The students’ unadjusted GPA at the time the associate degree is conferred (which should be unadjusted by the application of the academic forgiveness policy or course repeat policies) will be used in determining "with distinction."

- Lapel ribbons, for those graduating with an Associate Degree Distinction Cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, are distributed during rehearsal.

Kent Campus Commencement Ceremony

- All students graduating with a Kent State University Degree (Associates – Doctoral) are invited to attend the University Commencement held on May 13th, 2017 at 10 am in Dix Stadium. Geauga and Regional Academic Center students may attend both of the Geauga Campus Commencement & University Ceremonies on May 13th. University Ceremony participation information may be found on the Kent Campus website at: www.kent.edu/commencement.

Nursing Pinning Ceremony

- The Associate Degree in Nursing Pinning Ceremony will be held on May 13th at 2 pm at the Parkside Church in Chagrin Falls, OH. Please contact Nursing Director Mrs. Donna Casey (330-888-6400) for additional information.
Information for Graduating Students

Graduation Status
- Associate Degree candidates having questions about their graduation status should please contact Mrs. Reina Taylor, at (440) 834-3745. Baccalaureate Degree candidates should contact the Kent Campus College where their program of study (major) is offered.

University Exit Loan Counseling
- Students with federal subsidized/unsubsidized student loans must complete exit counseling on the website: www.studentloans.gov. You will need your Department of Education FSA ID # to access your exit counseling information.
- Exit interviews are required for all borrowers who have a Perkins/Nursing Student Loan who are graduating or are no longer enrolled at Kent State University. You will receive a letter from our office and an e-mail at your Kent State University e-mail address indicating when online exit interviews are available. Complete the interview by logging onto our billing service website, Heartland Campus Solutions ECSI http://www.heartlandecsi.com/Select "Complete Loan Counseling." Follow the instructions for completing the interview. The process takes about 20 minutes. If you should encounter problems or have questions, please call the Bursar's Office at 330-672-2626 Option 2.

Let us know!

Have QUESTIONS? Please contact Dave Chappell at (440) 834-3730 or dchappel@kent.edu

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