

Strayer University Launches Pioneering Virtual Commencement Ceremony

Online Commencement Ceremony Complements Internet Learning Experience

ARLINGTON, Va., June 27, 2006 /PRNewswire via COMTEX News Network/ -- Strayer University, a leading post-secondary adult education institution, today launched a pioneering virtual commencement ceremony available at www.strayer.edu. The virtual ceremony provides Strayer University's online graduates with an online ceremony that complements their experiences in Internet classes.

"This virtual event is the logical evolution in online education," said Randi Reich, provost of Strayer University. "It is a perfect fit for students who have earned their degrees using an e-learning platform.

"Our virtual commencement ceremony brings the graduation experience directly into the homes of online students and their guests worldwide, and it also is a fitting culmination for Strayer University Online students, whose graduation experience can match how they earned their degrees."

In the 2006 virtual commencement ceremony, Strayer University graduates are greeted with a traditional rendering of "Pomp and Circumstance" while viewing their names and degrees, which appear in a diploma format on the computer screen. Graduates navigate through opening remarks, student biographies and photos of classmates.

The virtual ceremony includes a keynote address by Susan LaChance, vice president of employee development and diversity with the U.S. Postal Service. LaChance discusses the benefits of lifelong learning and the importance of balancing work, family and education.

"Not only did Strayer University give its graduates the option of deciding when they could take classes, but it has given them the option of deciding the day of their graduation ceremony," said LaChance, who is responsible for employee and leadership development, succession planning, equal employment opportunity and diversity initiatives at the U.S. Postal Service.

"The life of an online student comes down to balancing many responsibilities, including family, work and education, so it's only fitting that online graduates experience a ceremony that helps strike a balance in their lives," she said.

In addition to LaChance's remarks, the virtual ceremony includes an address by Dr. Joel Nwagbaraocha, interim president of Strayer University and dean of the Graduate School.

"As online graduates, our students are pioneers at the forefront of a new, technologically advanced approach to earning a college degree," Nwagbaraocha said. "Their degrees demonstrate that they have the skills and knowledge to excel in today's fast-paced job market and the technological competence to succeed in their professional careers.

"Education is not a one-stop journey," he added. "Graduates who seek to learn more as they travel through life will always be an inspiration to themselves and to others."

While enjoying a dynamic application of Internet technology, Strayer University Online students are relieved of having to worry about whether the commencement schedule will fit their busy lives. With a few clicks of the mouse, they can view the virtual commencement from the comforts of home or office at any time of day or night.

Graduates participating in the virtual commencement ceremony can access it worldwide from any computer with Internet access throughout 2006. To view the ceremony, click on the virtual commencement link on the Strayer University Web site -- www.strayer.edu.

Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Strayer University tailors its programs to working adults who are unable to attend school full-time, offering day, night and weekend courses in a supportive environment for adult students. In addition, Strayer University Online allows students to combine traditional classroom instruction with online study or pursue a degree online. More than one-third of Strayer University students now take 100 percent of their courses online.

Strayer University provides undergraduate and graduate degrees in business administration, accounting, information technology, education and public administration. With more than 27,000 students, the University operates 41 campuses in nine states in the eastern United States and the District of Columbia, as well as worldwide via the Internet through Strayer University Online. For more information, visit www.strayer.edu. Strayer University is the largest operating unit of Strayer Education, Inc. (Nasdaq: STRA).

SOURCE Strayer University

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