



PRESS RELEASE: All Bags to be Checked at Ferris Commencement This Weekend (May 6 and 7)

Sandy C Gholston to: Archive

05/05/2011 11:16 AM

From: Sandy C Gholston/FSU

To: Archive/FSU@FERRIS

Included below is a press release regarding an important announcement related to security for Commencement ceremonies this weekend at Ferris State University. Any questions about this press release can be directed to Sandy Gholston, interim assistant director of News Services.

For Immediate Release
May 5, 2011

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All Bags to be Checked at Ferris Commencement

BIG RAPIDS – In the wake of the capture and death of Osama bin Laden, Ferris State University will be exercising tightened security measures at Wink Arena for this weekend's Spring Commencement ceremonies on Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7.

This action comes on the heels of an announcement by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that it will remain at a heightened state of vigilance and that terrorists may be targeting schools and public venues and other so-called "soft targets," said Assistant Director of Public Safety Jim Cook.

Cook said that although Ferris has not received any threats, it was determined that tightened security is appropriate and prudent in order to ensure a safe environment for everyone attending Commencement.

Guests of graduates are strongly encouraged to plan to arrive early at Commencement, since they will be subject to bag checks by personnel who will be staffing the two main gymnasium door entrances. The doors will open 60 minutes prior to each Commencement ceremony. All bags, such as purses, camera bags and infant supplies, are subject to inspection. Wrapped packages and large bags will not be allowed in the facility.

Cook said every effort will be made to move people through the gym doors as efficiently as possible. The University has arranged for additional staff to help guests move through the entrances in a timely manner.

For general information about Commencement, visit here:

<http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/news/news/News.cfm?AnnouncementID=1431&CatID=1>

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