

**From:** [Jan Eckert](#)  
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Included below is a press release regarding Spring Commencement exercises at Ferris State University May 5 and 6. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon.

For Immediate Release  
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### **Ferris officials to award more than 1,500 diplomas during Spring Commencement exercises**

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University officials will award more than 1,500 diplomas to graduates and present honorary doctoral degrees to two recipients during the University's annual Spring Commencement exercises in Wink Arena on Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6.

Some 1,500 students of the nearly 2,000 eligible graduates are expected to participate in five ceremonies recognizing those who completed graduation requirements during the 2005-06 academic year.

The Ferris Board of Trustees will confer honorary doctoral degrees upon Mike Daley (Business and Industry) and Jim Klett (Business and Industry). A distinguished graduate of Ferris, Daley earned both his Bachelor of Science and Associate of Applied Science at Ferris in the 1970s. His relationship with the University continued as he provided instruction in Optical Technology for Ferris.

Daley began his career with Essilor of America in 1976, serving as a Varilux Corp. sales consultant. He soon received several promotions within Varilux Corp., including positions as assistant technical manager, product manager, director of technical services, vice president of laboratory operations and vice president of sales. In 1989, Daley became president of Varilux Corp. In 1996, Daley was appointed president and COO of Essilor of America's United States Lens Division, known as Essilor Lenses, following the merger of Varilux Corp. with Essilor of America.

Daley's relationship with Ferris has facilitated the establishment of an Ophthalmic Fabrication Laboratory in the Michigan College of Optometry. His professional career includes distinguished service, both past and present, on numerous boards in the opticianry and optometric fields. His service on the Boards of Governors and Directors for blindness prevention agencies is truly reflective of his passion and commitment to his industry.

A long-time leader in the asphalt paving industry, Klett is an active member and past president of both the Michigan Road Builders Association and Michigan Asphalt Paving Association. He has been an effective advocate on behalf of his industry in both Lansing and Washington and has served as president of Klett Construction for many years.

Throughout his career, Klett has been deeply involved with Ferris' construction programs. He is the current chairman of the College of Technology's Construction Technology and Management Advisory Committee. In September 2004, Klett was the construction industry representative for the American Council for Construction Education's site visit for re-accreditation of the University's Bachelor of Science in Construction Management.

In 2003, he donated significant funds on behalf of his family for the procurement of state-of-the-art equipment in the materials laboratory located within the Granger Center for Construction and HVACR. Further, his personal efforts generated additional funds for the lab from industry partners. In recognition of his efforts, on April 14, 2004, the University officially dedicated the Klett Family Materials Laboratory.

Klett has been chairman of the National Asphalt Paving Association Research and Education Foundation Scholarship Program Committee since 2002 and currently serves on the Workforce Development Committee of Western Michigan. He has served in numerous other important construction industry association leadership positions.

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