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**Subject:** Local Businessman Receives Honorary Doctoral Degree  
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Included below is a press release regarding James Klett of Dowagiac, who is receiving an honorary doctoral degree from Ferris State University during the University's Spring Commencement exercises.

For Immediate Release  
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### **Ferris Board of Trustees confer honorary doctoral degree upon James Klett**

BIG RAPIDS – The Ferris State University Board of Trustees will confer an honorary doctoral degree upon James Klett of Dowagiac (Business and Industry) during the University's Spring Commencement exercises.

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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