

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Dec. 18, 2006

NC State University to Hold Fall Commencement Ceremonies Dec. 20

North Carolina State University will confer 2,866 degrees on graduating students during its fall commencement exercises, beginning at **9 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, in the RBC Center. Media coverage is invited.**

Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, chairwoman of the American Red Cross and the CEO and owner of Pace Communications, will deliver the commencement address. McElveen-Hunter served as the U.S. Ambassador to Finland from 2001 to 2003. During her term as ambassador she led several initiatives, including The Helsinki Women Business Leaders Summit (2002); Stop Child Trafficking: End Modern-Day Slavery (2003); and Children of Karelia. For her efforts and service, McElveen-Hunter received the Commander Grand Cross of the Order of the Lion – one of Finland's highest honors.

During the commencement ceremonies, NC State Chancellor James Oblinger will confer 2,866 degrees – 33 associate's, 1,789 bachelor's, 716 master's, and 328 doctoral – on 2,743 students. Twenty-eight valedictorians will be recognized for having earned perfect 4.0 grade point averages during their academic careers at NC State.

Oblinger will also confer honorary degrees on McElveen-Hunter and on Dr. Roscoe R. Braham Jr., a pioneering meteorologist and visiting professor at NC State; Dr. Lynn Margulis, Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Geosciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Roger Milliken, chairman of Milliken & Company; and Rex Nettleford, vice chancellor emeritus at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica.

NC State officials do not expect major traffic congestion, but advise attendees to be in their seats by 8:15 a.m. NC State's Amalgam Brass Ensemble will begin playing at 8:30 a.m., and graduates will march onto the arena floor at 9 a.m.

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The arena is accessible from the Edwards Mill Road exit off the Wade Avenue Extension, and from Trinity Road. Ample free parking will be available around the arena. More commencement information is available online at www.ncsu.edu/registrar/graduation/index.html.

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Note to editors: Media seating will be provided near the front of the stage on the left-hand side. NC State News Services personnel will be available to assist reporters.