Dakota County Technical College (DCTC) will hold this year’s commencement ceremony at Grace Church in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, on Friday, May 17, 2013, beginning at 7 p.m. This event is held annually to honor those students who have completed their programs of study and are ready to begin their new careers. Grace Church, located at 9301 Eden Prairie Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55347, is host to numerous conventions and graduations, and offers a spacious venue for graduates and their friends and family. ALL ARE WELCOME!

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GRADUATION FAIR: A ONE-STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR GRADUATION NEEDS
There is much to know and understand about this year’s commencement ceremony. As a way of providing this needed information to the most students in the quickest amount of time, DCTC will hold its 13th annual Graduation Fair on Tuesday, March 5 and Wednesday, March 6 outside the DCTC Bookstore. Attendees will be able to pick up: applications for graduation (if you haven’t done so already), ceremony photography information, invitations and envelopes, maps/directions to Grace Church, PTK regalia, graduation gifts and accessories, placement/job information and graduation follow-up.

APPLY FOR GRADUATION NOW
Apply for graduation online at www.dctc.edu/oga. The application is used to review if all academic requirements have been met and to determine how students want their names printed in the graduation program and on their diploma. Applications are also available in Student Services and need to be turned in or submitted no later than Friday, April 5 to assure inclusion in the graduation program.

CAPS AND GOWNS?
All graduates attending the ceremony are strongly encouraged to purchase their cap, gown and tassel set from the Bookstore beginning March 5 (sizes become limited closer to graduation). The cost of the set is $30. Graduates who are members of Phi Theta Kappa can purchase a stole, tassel and cord set for an additional $40 through Anna Voight in the Student Life Center (651-423-8649).

IS THERE A REHEARSAL? WHERE DO I SIT?
DCTC does not have a graduation rehearsal; however, we ask that graduates arrive at Grace Church (allow time for travel and parking) by 6 p.m. on May 17. Graduates will check in and receive name cards to verify pronunciation and receive instructions about the processional. Students will be lined up alphabetically within their program. The line-up must be complete by 6:30 p.m. so that the ceremony can begin promptly at 7 p.m. PLEASE BE ON TIME or risk not being able to sit with your fellow students. Graduates will have reserved seats.

SPECIAL SEATING ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE
Graduates and/or guests who need special accommodations during the ceremony (i.e. sign language interpreter, wheelchair access, stage lift, etc.) are strongly encouraged to let us know so arrangements can be made. Persons needing special accommodations should contact Anne Swanberg, Disability Service Advisor, at 651-423-8469, anne.swanberg@dctc.edu, or TTY 651-423-8621 by May 1.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE INVITED!
The May 17 ceremony is not only to honor the Class of 2013 but also to recognize the significant people who contributed to this accomplishment. Graduates are encouraged to invite as many of their family and friends as they wish to the ceremony at Grace Church. FREE invitations and envelopes can be picked up during the Graduation Fair or in the Student Life Center. Guests attending the ceremony do not need tickets to attend.
CEREMONY DETAILS
The 2013 Commencement Ceremony begins promptly at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 17, 2013. In addition to brief welcomes from DCTC President Dr. Ronald Thomas and representatives from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, there will also be student recognition awards and a special commencement speaker.

SAY CHEESE!
Students in our Visual Communications Program will be taking photographs of each graduate when receiving his or her diploma. Graduates will be given electronic access to pictures from the ceremony. All proceeds from the picture sales will go to support student scholarships. Because this service gives graduates the opportunity to have a professional graduation photograph, family and friends are encouraged to remain in their seats and enjoy the ceremony.

DO I GET MY DIPLOMA ON MAY 17?
Whether you are completing a certificate, diploma, or degree program, each graduate will receive a diploma cover when their name is announced and they cross the stage. The actual awards will be mailed to graduates within 10-12 weeks after the graduation ceremony. Those who graduated in December should have already received their award and cover (if not, contact Diane Frandrup in Student Services at 651-423-8254).

GETTING FROM HERE TO THERE
Maps and driving directions are available during the Graduation Fair and in Student Services or by visiting Grace Church’s web site at: www.atgrace.com/maps-and-directions. Parking is free.

IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Graduation Fair</td>
<td>11 a.m. – 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Central Commons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Application for Graduation Due</td>
<td>Requests for Special Seating Due</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Commencement Ceremony</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Graduate Line-up Begins</td>
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<td>6:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Faculty Line-up Begins</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Processional/Ceremony Begins</td>
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<td>8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Approximate End of Ceremony</td>
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CEREMONY QUESTIONS
Contact Nicole Meulemans, Student Life 651-423-8403 | nicole.meulemans@dctc.edu

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS QUESTIONS
Anne Swanberg, Disability Service Advisor 651-423-8469 | anne.swanberg@dctc.edu

GRADUATION QUESTIONS
Contact Diane Frandrup, Registration Office 651-423-8254 | diane.frandrup@dctc.edu

DCTC.EDU/GO/GRADUATION
DCTC GRADUATION AT GRACE CHURCH

GRACE CHURCH
9301 Eden Prairie Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55347

DIRECTIONS FROM I-494
Take Interstate 494 to Highway 212 West. Stay on 212 for approximately 3 miles and take the Eden Prairie Road exit. Turn right onto Eden Prairie Road for approximately 1 mile and Grace Church will be on your left.