



MORE THAN 700 GRADUATES HONORED ON MAY 15, 2009

Dakota County Technical College (DCTC) will hold this year's commencement ceremony at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium in downtown St Paul's RiverCentre on **Friday, May 15, 2009 at 7:30 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. DCTC expects to celebrate the accomplishments of over 700 students who graduated within the 2008-09 academic year. The Roy Wilkins Auditorium is part of Saint Paul's RiverCentre (175 West Kellogg Blvd.) and hosts numerous conventions and shows as well as the Minnesota Wild (Xcel Energy Center). The facility offers a spacious venue for our DCTC graduates and their friends and family. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

NINTH 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 information to the students, DCTC will hold its 9th annual Graduation Fair on Tuesday, March 17, and Wednesday, March 18, outside the DCTC Bookstore. Attendees of the fair will be able to pick up information on: applications for graduation (if you haven't done so already), ceremony photography, invitations and envelopes, maps and directions to Saint Paul, PTK materials, graduation gifts and accessories, placement and job information as well as the graduation follow-up survey.

ATTENDANCE AT THE FAIR IS NOT REQUIRED.

If you can, plan on attending anytime during one of these scheduled fairs:

Tuesday, March 17	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Central Commons (near Bookstore)
Wednesday, March 18	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Central Commons (near Bookstore)

For those unable to attend the graduation fair, all of the information and materials will be available from now through early May either in Student Services or the Bookstore or by calling the GRADUATION HOTLINE at 651-423-8399 or Toll-free 877-937-3282 ext. 8399.

APPLY FOR GRADUATION

Most students who intend to graduate this academic year (2008-2009) have already submitted an Application for Graduation to their counselor. The applications, available in Student Services or online (www.dctc.edu/go/graduation), are used to determine if all academic requirements have been met and clarify how students want their names printed in the graduation program and on their diploma.

For those students who have not yet applied, we ask that you submit your completed application to Student Services no later than April 3 to ensure you are included in the graduation program.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE INVITED

It is safe to say many of this year's graduates could not have completed their education without the support and encouragement of family and friends. The May 15th ceremony is not only to honor the Class of 2009 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 Saint Paul's RiverCentre. **FREE** invitations and envelopes can be picked up during the Graduation Fair or in Student Services. Guests attending the ceremony do not need tickets.

CAPS AND GOWNS

It would not be a graduation ceremony without the traditional mortarboard caps with tassels and long gowns. All graduates attending the May 15th ceremony are strongly encouraged to purchase their cap, gown and tassel set from the Bookstore between now and May 8. The cost of the cap and gown set is \$25.

Graduates who are members of Phi Theta Kappa can purchase a stol, tassel and cord set for an additional \$36 through Laura McGlauchlen in the Student Life Center (651-423-8330). Faculty will also be wearing their cap and gown.

IS THERE A REHEARSAL? WHERE DO I SIT?

All very good questions graduates should ask. Here are the answers. DCTC has this ceremony down to a science, so much so that no rehearsal is needed. However, we ask that graduates **arrive at RiverCentre's Roy Wilkins Auditorium by 6:15 p.m. on May 15** (allow time for travel, traffic and parking). Graduates will check in and receive name cards to verify pronunciation and instructions about the processional. Students will be lined up alphabetically within their program. The line-up will be complete by 7 p.m. so the ceremony can begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. **PLEASE BE ON TIME or you will risk not being seated with your program.** All graduates will have reserved seating in the center of the auditorium.

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 encouraged to contact us so arrangements can be made. Please call Anne Swanberg, Disability Service Advisor, at 651-423-8469 or TTY 651-423-8621 by May 1.

HOW LONG IS THE CEREMONY? WHO IS SPEAKING?

The 2009 Commencement Ceremony begins promptly at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 15, 2009. It is expected that the ceremony, including the processional, speakers, presentation of the 2009 graduates, and recessional will take approximately one and a half hours. In addition to brief welcomes from DCTC President Ronald Thomas and representatives from the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities system, there will also be student recognition awards and a special commencement speaker.

SAY CHEESE!

DCTC is pleased to have secured the services of Chappell Studios to take photographs of each graduate when receiving his or her diploma. Five to seven days after the ceremony, graduates will receive a free passport-size proof in the mail or via e-mail. There is no obligation to purchase pictures, but graduates will have the option of ordering from a variety of packages at reasonable prices through Chappell.

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. Chappell Studio guarantees complete satisfaction with the photography packages or a full refund will be given – no questions asked.

DO I GET MY DIPLOMA ON MAY 15TH?

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 approximately 10-12 weeks after the graduation ceremony. Those who graduated in December have probably 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 to downtown St. Paul and the RiverCentre complex are available for students, family and friends. Maps will be available at the Graduation Fair and in Student Services. You may also visit www.xcelenergycenter.com for directions. The maps will also include parking options; the most convenient location is the RiverCentre Ramp (directly across the street from RiverCentre on Kellogg Blvd.). The cost of this ramp is approximately \$10.

IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE

March 17 & 18	<i>Graduation Fair</i>
April 3	<i>Application for Graduation Due</i>
May 1	<i>Requests for Special Seating Due</i>
May 8	<i>Deadline for Picking up Cap/Gown Set</i>
May 15	6:15 p.m.	<i>Graduate Line-up Begins</i>
	6:30 p.m.	<i>Faculty Line-up Begins</i>
	7:30 p.m.	<i>Processional/Ceremony Begins</i>
	9:00 p.m.	<i>Approximate End of Ceremony</i>



Questions can be directed to Patrick Lair, Admissions Director/Graduation Coordinator at:

Phone: 651-423-8399 or Toll-Free 877-937-3282 ext. 8399 **E-mail:** patrick.lair@dctc.edu

 **DAKOTA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

WWW.DCTC.EDU | 1300 45TH STREET EAST, ROSEMOUNT, MN 55068 | 651-423-8000

*DCTC is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges & Universities System and an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator.
This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 877-937-3282 or TTY: 651-423-8621.*