



Commencement set for May 14-15

140+ graduates, candidates could march

More than 140 Brevard College seniors will bid farewell to their life as an undergraduate as the college celebrates commencement ceremonies next weekend.

Festivities begin at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 14, at the Porter Center with a reception for family and friends in honor of this year's graduating class. At 4:30 p.m., the celebration continues with the baccalaureate service and hooding ceremony in the Porter Center Concert Hall. The sermon will be delivered by Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Afterwards, students and their families, faculty and staff are invited to a campus-wide picnic in the Porter Center amphitheater.

Commencement weekend festivities will reach their culmination on Saturday, May 15, when members of the 2009-2010 class, following a class photo on the library steps at 8:30 a.m., will line up for commencement exercises to be held in the Betty Neale Academic Quadrangle.

Two graduates—Ian Townson, a business and organizational leadership major from Boiling Springs, S.C., and Jami Perry,

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an elementary education major from Greenville, S.C. —will be the keynote speakers during the graduation ceremony, which begins at 10 a.m. A reception will follow on the lawn of Taylor and Green halls.

10 tools new grads need to get that perfect job

You've spent hours crafting the perfect resume. The format is eye-catching, the paper feels substantial and the wording is practically Pulitzer Prize-winning. But you'll need much more than a well-crafted resume if you want to land that all-important first job.

Ford Myers, career coach, speaker and author of "Get the Job You Want, Even When No One's Hiring" (John Wiley & Sons, 2009), says the resume is just one of many "tools" a job seeker should have in his or her "Job Seekers' Tool Kit."

"Unfortunately, most people don't know what these other tools are or how to use them," Myers says. "By integrating other elements into the job search—and not relying solely on your resume—you can add power, professionalism and flexibility to your efforts."

Despite a recent National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) report which found that 5.3 percent more new graduates will be hired this year than in 2009, most will compete with an unprecedented number of unemployed Americans with more on-the-job experience.

To stand out from the crowd, Myers suggests the following 10 items every new

college graduate should have in the "Job Seekers' Tool Kit":

1. Accomplishment Stories. Write five or six compelling stories about school or work-related tasks that made you proud.

2. Positioning Statement. Prepare and practice a "15-second commercial" about who you are, what you've done in the past (academically and professionally, if applicable), and the particular strengths you can contribute to an employer.

3. Professional Biography. Write a one-page narrative of your career in the "third person"—as though someone else wrote it about you.

4. Target Company List. Make a "wish list" of adjectives that would describe your ideal employer, such as size, location, industry, culture, environment, etc. Then research specific organizations that meet those criteria and put them on a list of 35 to 50 "target companies."

5. Contact List. Compile a list of all the people you know personally and pro-

fessionally. Remember that approximately 80 percent of new opportunities are secured through networking.

6. Professional/Academic References. List colleagues or professors who would "sing your praises" if asked about you. Contact each of them, and get approval to use their names on your list of references.

7. Letters of Recommendation. Request letters from four or five respected business colleagues or academic associates which will be printed on their professional letterhead.

8. Networking Agenda. Write out a full networking discussion or script so you will know exactly how to manage the networking discussion—how it flows, what to expect, how to react to the other person's comments, etc.

9. Tracking System. Keep a detailed record of your job search activities, including phone calls, meeting notes and corre-

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