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COLLEGE PREPARES FOR 132ND COMMENCEMENT

May 12, 2008

(Worcester, Mass.) -- Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor and former Worcester Mayor Timothy Murray will be the keynote speaker at the 132nd Commencement of Worcester State College (WSC), Sunday May 18, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the DCU Center in Worcester. Murray will receive an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters. "I am so proud to welcome the Lieutenant Governor to our 2008 commencement," said Worcester State College President Dr. Janelle Ashley. "He has exemplified outstanding service to his city and the Commonwealth and embraced issues so dear to our students and our community: economic development, public education, the environment and engaging citizens in their democracy."

The college will also honor Dr. Arthur Pappas, MD and Dr. Martha Pappas, PhD with the 2008 Community Service Award in recognition of their extraordinary leadership in community improvement in education, medicine, athletics, recreation, and culture. "Their community engagement and philanthropy has touched the lives of thousands," said Ashley. "They will be truly inspirational honorees for our graduates."

In addition, Dr. Margaret E. Kerr, Associate Professor of Chemistry will receive the George I. Alden Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Kerr has received widespread recognition for her leadership in the development of green chemistry curricula, a teaching approach that reduces the use or generation of hazardous substances during chemical processes. Under her direction, Worcester State College adopted a green chemistry curriculum for its organic laboratory sequences four years ago, the first school in the area to do so.

There will be 549 undergraduate students receiving bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees and 106 students receiving graduate degrees. Forty-one graduates will receive their Master of Science

in Management degree; 52 will receive their Master of Education degree and 12 will receive their Master of Occupational Therapy degree.

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