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Agriculture Director to Address Rhodes State College Graduates; Viewers can watch via Livestream

LIMA, Ohio —Ohio Department of Agriculture Director David T. Daniels will give the commencement address to 300 graduates of the Rhodes State College Class of 2014. The College will confer 500 degrees at **2 p.m. on Saturday, May 3**, at the College's 44th annual commencement exercise at Lima's Veterans Memorial Civic & Convention Center.

Individuals will be able to watch the ceremony anywhere where internet access is available because the ceremony will be shown on Livestream.com at the following web address: http://new.livestream.com/RhodesStateGraduation2014/events/2944781

Director Daniels was formally appointed Ohio Agriculture Director by Governor John R. Kasich on February 15, 2012. He is a native of Greenfield, Ohio, where he was born and raised, and where he and his family managed Daniels Brothers farm. Director Daniels brings the perspective of a family farmer, small businessman and local government official to the department.

Following four terms in the Ohio House of Representatives, he was elected to the Ohio Senate in 2010 to serve the 17th Ohio Senate District, which includes Clinton, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Pike, Ross, Vinton and portions of Lawrence and Pickaway counties. Prior to being elected to the Ohio General Assembly, Director Daniels served four years on the Greenfield City Council and eight as Mayor. He also served as a Highland County Commissioner for six years.

In addition to providing leadership for the agricultural industry, Director Daniels administers numerous regulatory, food safety, and consumer protection programs for the benefit of all Ohioans.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONORED

Also during commencement, Rhodes State will present its 2014 Outstanding Alumni Award to Marilyn Cipollone, a 1994 Associate Degree graduate in Human Services from Lima Technical College (former name of Rhodes State College). Cipollone began her career in 1994 as a Family Development Specialist with the Lima Allen Council on Community Affairs. She was responsible for implementing a pilot program for homeless prevention. Nineteen years later, Marilyn is still working to meet the needs of impoverished individuals in the Lima area. Since 1999, she has served as Executive Director of Samaritan House – an emergency shelter for homeless women and children.

"Lima Tech certainly has made a profound difference in my life. Once I decided to go back to school, I never looked back," Cipollone said. "I enrolled in 1992 and then kept going. The instructors gave me the confidence I needed to continue to further my education. I owe my career in human services and my position as adjunct instructor to the guidance I received from the first day I enrolled."

Cipollone earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 1998 from The Ohio State University as well as a Master of Arts in Adult Education in 2001. While attending OSU, Marilyn received the Critical Difference Award for Women and a Coca-Cola Foundation Critical Difference Scholarship.

Today she serves as a Rhodes State adjunct instructor in Human Services and Psychology. In addition, Cipollone has previously served as a member of the board of Mental Health & Recovery Services of Allen, Auglaize, & Mercer Counties as well as on the Director's Roundtable for the Lima Allen County Chamber of Commerce. She is currently active with Rhode State's Human Services Advisory Committee, the Housing

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Consortium Continuum of Care for Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties, and the Board of Directors for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The Outstanding Alumni Award has been presented annually since 1986 to a graduate who has distinguished themselves in both their profession and their community service activities. These accomplishments may emphasize professional, social, and religious or educational values. Past recipients represent a wide variety of area citizenship, leadership and professional excellence.

Following this graduation, more than 16,000 people will have graduated from the College since its establishment in 1971.

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MEDIA: Call Edwina Blackwell Clark at (419) 234-5440 to schedule interviews.