

Dayton Daily News

High-profile speakers to visit region as commencement speakers

Monday, April 28, 2014

Wilberforce University's announcement Monday that their commencement speaker will be the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. is the latest in a series of well-known speakers scheduled to address graduates during this season's college and university commencements. Local college and university graduations begin on Friday and will continue throughout the month.

Jackson, who is known for his commitment to youth, will speak at 2 p.m. on Saturday to a group of 117 December and May graduates, according to information from the school.

The Rev. John Freeman, who returned to the school in February as dean of student services, said Jackson is the right choice to inspire the school community.

"The Rev. Jackson has been a great inspiration to the entire black community," he said. "This is the time, we need an exceptionally inspiring and motivational speaker."

The school's baccalaureate service will be at 10:30 a.m. with the Rev. Reginald T. Jackson as the speaker. The Rev. Reginald T. Jackson is the 132nd Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Graduation events will be on campus in the Alumni Multiplex.

Gov. John Kasich, will be Sinclair Community College's commencement speaker. Sinclair graduation will be at 6 p.m. Sunday at the University of Dayton Arena.

"We are honored to have Governor John Kasich as our keynote speaker for our commencement ceremony," Sinclair President Steve Johnson said in a release. "Governor Kasich has encouraged Ohio's institutions of higher education to work more closely together and to operate more efficiently."

Central State University's graduation will feature U.S. Rep. Marcia L. Fudge, D-Cleveland. Fudge is Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and a member of the House Committee on Agriculture, where she is the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight and Nutrition, and a member of the Subcommittee on Horticulture, Research, and Bio-technology & Foreign Agriculture. She also serves on the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Miami University's May 17 graduation will feature actor, director and producer Forest Whitaker. Whitaker has won an Academy Award and Golden Globe for his performance in *The Last King of Scotland*. He starred as butler Cecil Gaines in Lee Daniels' *The Butler*.

The Butler is based on an article written by Washington Post writer Wil Haygood (Miami

'76), who gave Miami's commencement address last spring, according to a release from the school.

"As an actor and a humanitarian, Forest Whitaker reflects the energy and the values that define Miami. We are excited to have him share his experience and vision with our graduating class," Miami President David Hodge said in the release.

Friday, May 2
Wright State Lake Campus

7 p.m.

On the grounds of the Lake Campus in Celina (rain or shine).

Saturday, May 3

University of Dayton Law School

9 a.m.

University of Dayton Arena

Speaker: Retired U.S. Supreme Court Clerk Gen. William Suter

Graduation will be streamed.

Wright State University

10 a.m.

Wright State University Nutter Center

Doors will open at 8:30 a.m.

Students, please arrive no later than 9 a.m.

Tickets will not be required to attend the ceremony.

Cedarville University

10 a.m.

Doden Field House

Doors to the Doden Field House will open at 9 a.m. There are no reserved seats. Tickets are required to enter the Doden Field House. Individuals sitting together will not be seated until the entire group has arrived. All ticket holders must be seated by 9:45 a.m.

Speaker: Thomas White, President, Cedarville University (his first year as president)

Graduation will be streamed.

Wilberforce University

Baccalaureate and Commencement

Baccalaureate: 10:30 a.m.

Commencement: 2 p.m.

Wilberforce Alumni Multiplex

Speaker: The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr.

University of Dayton

Graduate Ceremony

12:45 p.m.

University of Dayton Arena

Graduation will be streamed.

Sunday, May 4

University of Dayton

Undergraduate Ceremony

9:45 a.m.

University of Dayton Arena

Graduation will be streamed.

Antioch University Midwest

2-4 p.m.

Kuss Auditorium

300 South Fountain Avenue

Clark State Community College-Downtown Campus,

Springfield

Sinclair Community College

6 p.m.

University of Dayton Arena

Speaker: Gov. John Kasich

Thursday, May 8

Central State University

Baccalaureate Ceremony

5 p.m.

Robeson Hall, Auditorium

Saturday, May 10

Central State University

Commencement Ceremony

10 a.m.

Dayton Convention Center, 22 E. Fifth Street, Dayton

Tickets are not required.

Speaker: U. S. Rep. Marcia L. Fudge, D-Cleveland

Wilmington College

10:30 a.m.

Hermann Court

Tickets required

Speaker: WC President Jim Reynolds

Saturday, May 17

Miami University

1:30 p.m.

Yager Stadium

Speaker: Forest Whitaker