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UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT 2006

Commencement Speaker

Graduates Will Receive Advice from "The Apprentice," Kelly Perdeu



The man Donald Trump chose to manage some of his most important and successful projects in NBC's "The Apprentice" will speak at Plymouth State University's Undergraduate Commencement, May 20 at 10 a.m. Entrepreneur Kelly Perdeu will explore leadership themes highlighted in his new book, *Take Command: 10 Leadership Principles I Learned in the Military and Put to Work* for Donald Trump, and offer other secrets of success to PSU graduates.

For Perdeu, effective leadership—whether in the business world, other professional fields or one's personal life—is based on passion, perseverance and planning. During his 16-week job interview on the second season of "The Apprentice," a reality television show produced by Donald Trump, Perdeu's skills and passion were tested many times as he vied for a spot on Trump's staff.

Throughout the series, Perdeu was challenged to complete tasks ranging from selling ice cream and designing a women's fashion line to creating a full marketing campaign for Pepsi-Cola. Perdeu was

also reviewed by a panel of four of the country's leading CEOs, who recommended him to Trump.

As Trump's "apprentice," Perdeu spent a year managing several of "The Donald's" projects, including a commercial real estate site in Manhattan, Trump Tower in Tampa, Fla. and Trump Ice, a bottled water company. After his contract year with Trump, Kelly decided to move on and pursue his own entrepreneurial goals. Currently, he is the managing director of a venture capital fund called Angel-Led Venture Partners and is working on several real estate projects, including a Florida self-storage facility and a 600-acre fishing and hunting preserve in Montana. Perdeu is also lending his military knowledge (he served as a military intelligence officer for the U.S. Army) to television viewers as host of the Military Channel series "GI Factory," which explores military technology and history.

Throughout his life, Perdeu has believed in the importance of higher education. Perdeu earned his B.S. at the United States Military Academy, West Point, his M.B.A. from the Anderson School at UCLA and his J.D. from the UCLA School of Law.

According to Perdeu, higher education is an essential step in improving one's leadership skills and attaining one's goals.

"The importance of a liberal education cannot be overstated. The thirst for knowledge and learning are not only what make life exciting, they are also what help prepare these young men and women to go out and overcome the many challenges they will face in life," said Perdeu.


Perdeu says he is pleased to be chosen as PSU's 2006 commencement speaker.

"Graduation is a very important day in students' lives and the lives of their family and friends," said Perdeu. "I am honored and excited to speak to them on this momentous occasion."

For more information on Perdeu, please visit www.kellyperdeu.com.

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