



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SPECTRUM HEALTH CEO RICHARD BREON TO SPEAK AT 2013 DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES Breon also to receive Honorary Doctorate of Law**

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., March 11, 2013** – Richard C. Breon, President and CEO of Spectrum Health, will serve as Davenport University’s 2013 Commencement Speaker at ceremonies to be held April 28, 2013, at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids. At the event, where about 2,200 Davenport graduates from across the state will celebrate their new degrees, Breon will be presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Law degree by the University.

“We are excited to have a healthcare and business leader of Rick Breon’s stature share his wisdom with our 2013 graduates,” said Tracy Graham, Chairman of Davenport’s Board of Trustees. “I think our graduates will long remember their Commencement experience and the insights Rick shares from the podium.”

“At Davenport we prepare students to ‘Get Where the World is Going’ in business, technology and health professions. With his extensive experience, Rick Breon is the perfect choice to help send off these new alumni as they enter a new stage of their life,” said Dr. Richard Pappas, President of Davenport University. “We’re thrilled that we can further recognize Rick with an honorary degree. He has been a leader in this community for more than a decade and the impact he continues to have on this region is tremendous,” said Pappas.

As President and CEO of Spectrum Health, a not-for-profit, integrated health system based in West Michigan, Breon is responsible for the vision and oversight of the region’s only integrated health system and its largest employer. Spectrum offers a full continuum of care through Spectrum Health Hospital Group, which includes nine hospitals and more than 140 service sites; Spectrum Health Medical Group and West Michigan Heart physician groups; and Priority Health, its health plan.

Serving in this role since 2000, Breon previously was President and CEO of Mission Health System Inc., a member of Ascension Health, and St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center in Evansville, Ind. He also served as President and CEO of Mercy Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa, and held senior management positions at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin, Texas, and Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

The former chair of the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Breon is a current board member for The Right Place, Inc. and the Regional Air Alliance. A fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, he earned his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University and his master's degree from The University of Iowa.

### **About Davenport University**

Founded in 1866, Davenport is a private, non-profit university serving more than 11,000 students at campuses across Michigan and online. With tuition among the lowest of all private universities in the state, Davenport provides high academic quality, small class sizes, conveniently located campuses, faculty with real-world experience and more than 50 dynamic undergraduate and graduate programs addressing in-demand careers in business, technology and health professions. More information is available at [www.davenport.edu](http://www.davenport.edu).

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