



Michigan State University spring commencement speakers reflect dedication to education

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April 06, 2007,EAST LANSING, Mich. — Jaime Escalante, a mathematics teacher whose life inspired the movie “Stand and Deliver,” and Julie Gerberding, who played a major role in leading the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s response to the anthrax bioterrorism events of 2001, will be Michigan State University’s spring commencement speakers.

MSU’s spring 2007 commencement ceremonies will be held Friday, May 4, and Saturday, May 5. Convocation is the one central ceremony for all undergraduates who will be graduating this spring at MSU. For additional commencement information, including a list of individual college ceremonies, visit the Web at www.commencement.msu.edu.

Escalante, whose East Los Angeles teaching career was depicted in the popular 1988 movie, will address undergraduate candidates for degrees at the 1 p.m. convocation on May 4 at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center, One Birch Road. He will receive an honorary doctor of humanities.

Gerberding, CDC director, will address candidates for advanced degrees at the 7 p.m. advanced degree ceremony, also on May 4, at the Breslin Center. She will receive an honorary doctor of science.

MSU’s ties to the CDC are many and varied.

The CDC funds a number of MSU research projects, ranging from the prevention of blood disorders to better methods of treating knee injuries to searching for ways to prevent premature births.

Lonnie King, former dean of MSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine, currently serves the CDC as director of its National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne and Enteric Diseases. Also, MSU professor of pediatrics and human development Roshni Kulkarni is currently on leave from the university, working as director of the CDC’s Division of Hereditary Blood Disorders.

“ Our speakers have devoted their lives to the pursuit of knowledge for the betterment of students and for the public good,” said MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon. “They both know well the commitment and dedication it takes to advance knowledge and transform lives.

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