NEWS RELEASE

Lt. Gen. Julius W. Becton, Jr. Addresses Graduates of American Public University System

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Wallace E. Boston, Jr., President and CEO of the Online University System, Receives Honorary Doctorate

CHARLES TOWN, W.Va., May 21 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- More than 2000 graduates are a part of the American Public University System's (APUS) Class of 2008. On Saturday, May 17th, nearly 200 of those graduates, from Japan to Puerto Rico, from Alaska to Nigeria, from Canada to California, were in attendance at the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly, Va., to participate in the largest commencement ceremony in the online university system's 17-year history. Graduates received associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees that were earned exclusively online.

APUS's curriculum focuses on improved critical thinking and in his address to graduates, APUS President and CEO, Wallace E. Boston, Jr., said, "Understanding the cultural needs of your prospective partners, customers, or adversaries will be more important than ever. The continuing advances in Web. 2.0 technology will allow individuals and their governments to be more selective with the information received by them through technology over the internet." APUS is an online university system that serves more than 30,000 part-time students living in all 50 states and more than 100 foreign countries.

During the ceremony, Boston received a Doctorate of Business Administration, Honoris Causa, from the APUS Board of Trustees. The trustees cited his inspirational and exemplary leadership and achievement as Chief Executive Officer of American Public Education, Inc., and as President of American Public University System since 2004. The trustees felt he has brought to the institution inspirational leadership, efficient administrative management, and superb financial management, leading the University's noteworthy development and growth. "I am looking forward to continuing my leadership of this vibrant and vital institution," said Boston after commencement.

President of the University College of the University of Northern Virginia and student honors speaker, Dr. Benjamin Davis said, "APUS gave me the opportunity to pursue a dream; to study space science." On behalf of all the graduates, he thanked family, friends and faculty for their support in pursuit of their degrees.

The commencement address was given by Lt. General Julius W. Becton, Jr., USA Retired. Becton is a member of the APUS Board of Trustees and served for nearly 40 years in the U.S. Army. He was also president of Prairie View A&M University and CEO of the District of Columbia Public Schools.

"Each of you is truly a star by making it this far," said Becton. He commented that it took him 14 years to complete his bachelor's degree and six years to complete his master's degree. He attributes his success to the support and patience of his wife and family. He also said that teamwork - at work, at school and at home - is key to success. "Success really comes when working as a team," said Becton. "Never give up, work as a team, no matter where you are."

About American Public University System

American Public University System (http://www.apus.edu) is comprised of American Military University (http://www.amuonline.com) and American Public University (http://www.apu.apus.edu) and provides distance learning to more than 30,000 civilian and military adult students worldwide. APUS offers 57 degrees in its online undergraduate and graduate programs. Courses are taught by professors who are experienced in the real-world subjects they teach. APUS's curriculum, affordability and flexibility helps working adults pursue degrees in homeland security, national security and emergency and disaster management. APUS also offers programs in professional studies, management, and liberal arts. A university book grant supplies textbooks at no cost for eligible undergraduate students. Eligible students may apply for Federal Student Aid. American Public University System is a wholly-owned subsidiary of American Public Education, Inc. (Nasdaq: APEI). For more information, please visit http://www.americanpubliceducation.com.

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