

GRADUATION CEREMONY MEMO TO PARENTS & STUDENTS

WHAT: TUSCOLA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

WHEN: May 23, 2013, 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: RAMSEY CENTER – WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY – CULLOWHEE, NC

Parents/Students:

We encourage your attendance at Tuscola's graduation ceremony on May 23, 2013, and we want to make your time and travel as safe and enjoyable as possible. Please follow the suggestions below so that everyone remains safe and comfortable throughout this process.

Though Cullowhee is about a twenty-five minute drive from the Waynesville area, you might consider leaving earlier on May 23. It is not uncommon for traffic to be backed up from the Sylva exit all the way to Cullowhee. If you leave in time to allow for slower traffic, you can avoid the last-minute rush as well as a possible accident.

At the Ramsey Center of Western Carolina University, the concourse doors (those leading directly into the auditorium) will not open until **6:00 P.M.** You are welcome to arrive early and line up around the concourse, as the doors to that area will be opened at 5:00 P.M.; however, understand that there are few seats in the concourse area, so standing for a long period could be a problem for some people.

Please visit the Ramsey Center web site at www.wcu.edu/ramsey/77.htm On the right-hand side of the page, this web site offers links to specific directions for **Parking, Accessibility** (for Handicapped), and **Directions & Maps**.

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Western Carolina University officials and traffic officers ask that you follow these guidelines when arriving on campus for graduation:

- Instead of turning left at the first stop light in front of the WCU campus, go to the second light and turn left onto Forrest Hills Road. This keeps traffic running more smoothly.
 - On Forrest Hills Road, there is one parking lot on the right, if guests would like to use it, or ...
 - Guests may take the first left off Forrest Hills Road; there is another parking lot to the left, which is across a creek. Once guests have parked, they will walk across a bridge, cross the street, and walk directly onto the Ramsey Center site.
 - There is a parking lot directly in front of and to the side of the Ramsey Center itself, but the parking may be limited, due to handicapped spaces and those reserved for employees, etc.
 - If you have handicapped students who are graduating or handicapped guests in your vehicle, you can have your driver drop them off at the closest point possible. Then the driver can park elsewhere. There should be WCU attendants available at these points to direct handicapped students to the designated area for graduates and handicapped spectators to the elevators; they will also direct drivers to parking areas best for them. Obviously, some handicapped individuals will need assistance from the vehicle to the auditorium and back to the vehicle at the end of the ceremony; WCU will provide assistants for these individuals. If you will look at the colored map provided on the Ramsey Center web site, you will see a BLUE area, which is a left turn off Forrest Hills Road. This is a drop off area for those needing assistance, and attendants will be available for assistance and directions.
 - **Again, be sure to check out the web site listed above to clarify parking questions.**
 - Traffic officers will also be available if you have questions.