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**FIVE-TIME GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING RECORDING ARTIST JOHN LEGEND CELEBRATES
THE TALENTS OF KAPLAN UNIVERSITY WINTER 2009 GRADUATES**

***Commencement Marks Graduation of Nearly 2,500 Online Students from Around the
Country Who Met Face-to-Face for First Time***

Miami, FL, January 31, 2009 – Keynote speaker and musical sensation John Legend described education as one of the five cornerstones essential to all men and women during his commencement address to Kaplan University’s online winter 2009 graduating class. On the heels of the launch of Kaplan University’s new “Talent Campaign,” Legend talked about how his own education helped him build the confidence and skills he needed to utilize his own talent and make his dreams a reality.

“The degree you receive today is not just a piece of paper. It’s not just an academic honor. It’s a key,” Legend told graduates during the ceremony at the James L. Knight International Center. “For many of you, it will open the door to possibilities you couldn’t even imagine just a few years ago ... By acquiring new knowledge and new skills, you’ve dramatically expanded the spectrum of opportunities that are available to you.”

Legend described his passionate advocacy for education as a way to achieve one’s goals and advance society as a whole, a message that resonated with the Kaplan University graduates, who were drawn to the University because it is making higher education more accessible to more Americans.

One of those graduates was student speaker Kim Reneé Jackson of Minnesota, who earned her master’s degree in criminal justice. A victim of domestic abuse, Jackson shared her inspiring story about taking her life back and using her Kaplan education to gain new perspective and overcome old fears.

“We are now entering an era that will be full of profound change,” Jackson told fellow graduates. “Every one of us here today will be a major player in this change, so I encourage all of you to utilize everything you have learned here at Kaplan, to take a risk and put aside imagined fears. When we don’t take a risk out of fear, we rob ourselves of vast opportunities we may never have thought imaginable.”

Like Jackson, many of Kaplan University’s graduates are working adults who juggled job and family responsibilities while earning their degrees. They traveled from around the country to meet face-to-face for the first time and celebrate their academic achievements. Their online degree programs helped harness untapped talent they can now use to better compete in today’s job market. Hundreds of them strode across the stage to collect their degrees and shake hands with the deans and instructors who helped successfully guide them through their programs.

Kaplan, Inc. Chairman and CEO, and Kaplan University President Andrew S. Rosen praised the graduates for their tenacity and told them that the country is counting on educated workers just like them.

“This is a remarkable time in American history to be earning a degree,” Rosen said. “Our country is facing enormous challenges here and overseas. Now more than ever, America’s economy will be relying on a workforce that is more educated, more innovative and more talented.”

In addition to recognizing the students’ accomplishments, the University also acknowledged two faculty members, Cliff Roberson of the Graduate School of Criminal Justice and Diane Martinez of the School of Arts and Sciences, who earned Outstanding Faculty Awards for their commitment to their students and colleagues.

The University hosts two graduations per year for its fully online students; a winter ceremony in South Florida and a summer one in Chicago.

About Kaplan University

Kaplan University offers a different school of thought for higher education. It strives to help adult students unlock their untapped talent by providing a practical student-centered education that prepares them for careers in some of the fastest-growing industries. Based in Davenport, Iowa, the University is regionally accredited by The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). Kaplan University offers more than 100 academic programs and currently serves more than 48,000 online and on-ground students. To learn more about Kaplan University, visit www.kaplan.edu.

Kaplan University is part of Kaplan Higher Education, which serves more than 100,000 online and on-ground students through 70 campus-based schools across the United States and in Europe. It also has online programs through Kaplan Virtual Education and Concord Law School of Kaplan University. Kaplan Higher Education schools offer a spectrum of academic opportunities, from high school diplomas to graduate and professional degrees, including a Juris Doctor degree. Kaplan Higher Education is part of Kaplan, Inc., a subsidiary of The Washington Post Company (NYSE: WPO). For more information, visit www.kaplan.com.

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