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## General Electric CEO to address graduates

Kaitlynn Riely

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Jeffrey R. Immelt, the chairman and chief executive officer of General Electric, Inc., will be the principal graduation speaker and will receive an honorary degree Sunday at Notre Dame's undergraduate commencement ceremony.

University officials announced in February that Immelt would speak at Notre Dame's 162nd Commencement ceremony - to be held in the Joyce Center - and that he would receive an honorary doctor of laws degree.

In a statement released with the announcement of the speaker, University President Father John Jenkins praised Immelt and expressed excitement for his visit to the University.

"During his five-plus years as head of the world's second largest company, Jeff Immelt has demonstrated the innovative philosophy, leadership traits and personal integrity that make him a business executive worthy of emulating," Jenkins said. "We are delighted that he will join us in May to speak to our graduates and accept an honorary degree."

The commencement speaker is traditionally chosen by the president of the University, with the input of University officers and other leaders, said Dennis Brown, the assistant vice president for News and Information. But anyone can make a suggestion to the president's office for the graduation speaker or for honorary degree recipients, he said.

"We seek speakers who have made significant contributions to society in any number of

ways and who also will deliver a compelling message to graduates," Brown said. He emphasized that speakers are not chosen on the "basis of celebrity," and said Notre Dame has, in the past, had speakers who were well known, but also speakers who were not that widely known.

University officials also try to draw speakers from a variety of fields, like politics, science or entertainment. This year, the speaker is from the corporate world.

"We have a partnership with [General Electric] through NBC, so many people know Mr. Immelt through that," Brown said.

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