Kaplan University celebrated the graduation of its winter 2010 class during a live ceremony on Jan. 30 in Miami, FL. General Colin L. Powell, the 65th Secretary of State and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, served as the commencement speaker. The following local students were awarded degrees:

- Stacy Bramstedt of Blue Grass, IA, was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- Catherine Hoy of Davenport, IA, was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration .
- Amber R. Long of Taylor Ridge, IL, was awarded a Associate of Applied Science in Accounting .
- Genenda Milloy of Moline, IL, was awarded a Master of Arts in Teacher Education.
- Nichole R. Payney of Rock Island, IL, was awarded a Associate of Applied Science in Health Sciences .
- Amber L. Runge of Davenport, IA, was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice .
- Corey Thompson of Davenport, IA, was awarded a Master of Education in Teacher Education .

"You can improve yourselves using the incredible power of this revolution [in online education] …It's how Kaplan University has grown and continues to grow. This revolution will speed through this country because of its effectiveness and power," Gen. Powell told the graduates during the ceremony at the James L. Knight International Center in Miami. "Today celebrate your achievements; tomorrow get back online and determine what you are going to do next."

The Kaplan University winter 2010 class of more than 3,300 students earned their associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees – as well as professional certificates – completely online. Many of them traveled from around the country and the world to attend the ceremony, meeting face-to-face for the first time.

About Kaplan University

Kaplan University offers a different school of thought for higher education. It strives to help adult students unlock their 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 125 academic programs and serves more than 63,000 online and campus-based students. To learn more about Kaplan University, visit www.kaplan.edu/talent .