



PRESS RELEASE

ROBERT J. SHEARER TO RECEIVE HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE FROM LAKE ERIE COLLEGE

FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

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**Shearer's Foods, Inc.
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**For Information on
Shearer's
Award-Winning
Products or Services,
Please Contact
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1-888-GREAT-CHIPS
(toll free) or
www.shearers.com**

Brewster, Ohio: Robert J. Shearer will give the commencement address at Lake Erie College as 181 students graduate in the 151st class on Sunday, May 9 at 11:00 a.m. in the Auxiliary Gym of the Jerome T. Osborne Family Athletic and Wellness Center.

Mr. Shearer, a Board member of Lake Erie College, will be presented with an honorary doctor of law degree by the College for his outstanding acts of volunteerism and philanthropy. Mr. Shearer attended Walsh University. After graduation, he and his family expanded a potato chip distribution business into Shearer's Foods, Inc., the manufacturer and distributor of Shearer's award winning snacks.

Mr. Shearer is responsible for developing the culture and guiding the expansion of the 36-year-old company, where the customer always comes first. He has been recognized with numerous accolades, including being inducted into the Northeast Ohio Business Hall of Fame and receiving the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award in the Northeast Ohio Region.

Lake Erie College, located in Painesville, currently serves more than 1,200 students. Founded in 1856, Lake Erie is an independent, liberal arts institution that challenges its students to "get in and stand out" in academics, athletics and student activities. The College offers 35 undergraduate majors and graduate programs, and the option to design an individualized major to fit career and academic goals. Lake Erie's innovative learning experiences focus on helping students to meet career and life challenges, preparing for a world that is increasingly interdependent.



Shearer's Foods, Inc., founded in 1974, is the manufacturer/distributor of Shearer's Award-Winning Snacks. Varied products include a complete line of potato chips, tortilla chips, pretzels, cheese curls/puffs, peanuts, popcorn, corn chips and other snacks. While Shearer's is recognized as a leader in the snack food industry, they consistently achieve "excellence" in everything they do! *Real Simple* magazine ranked Shearer's the "Best Chips with a Beer" and *Newsweek* magazine commented Shearer's potato chips were "...crisply addictive." *Country Living* magazine named Shearer's the best potato chips in Ohio! The company has been named Snack Manufacturer of the Year by *Snack Food and Wholesale Bakery* magazine. Shearer's has been awarded the Weatherhead 100, Cascade Capital Business Growth Award and The Entrepreneurs EDGE Award for being one of the fastest growing companies in Northeast Ohio. The Weatherhead School of Management has also recognized Shearer's as one of its Family Firms of Distinction. Shearer's potato chips received the Gold Medal Award from the American Tasting Institute of San Francisco for the best potato chips in America. Both the Canton and the Massillon Chambers of Commerce have honored Shearer's as their Business of the Year. The company has been recognized for manufacturing excellence and sustainability by winning the Manny Award and the Evolution of Manufacturing Award. Shearer's has been awarded the North Coast 99 as a top employer in Northeast Ohio, and is the only company to receive this award all eleven years of its existence! *Inside Business* magazine has honored Shearer's as one of the top performing companies in Northeast Ohio twelve times with the NEO Success Award. Shearer's has been recognized for their outstanding customer service by winning the Cleveland Food Dealers Association's Vendor of the Year Award and *Smart Business magazine's* World Class Customer Service Award. For their far-reaching community service efforts, Shearer's has earned the Pillar Award twice as well as the Shatten Civic Award. Shearer's Snacks are distributed throughout North America and overseas.