



PRESS RELEASE

**ACTING US SURGEON GENERAL, REAR ADMIRAL BORIS D. LUSHNIAK
TO DELIVER
SALUS UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

Ceremony to be Held on May 22 at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia

Elkins Park, PA (23 April 2014) – Acting United States Surgeon General, Rear Admiral (RADM) Boris D. Lushniak, MD, MPH, will address Salus University’s commencement ceremony. Dr. Lushniak oversees the operations of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps, comprised of approximately 6,700 uniformed health officers who serve in locations around the world to promote, protect, and advance the health and safety of our Nation.

“Salus University is incredibly fortunate to have Admiral Lushniak, a former colleague, address our 2014 graduating class,” said President Michael H. Mittelman. “His leadership is well known on a global scale and I am certain everyone in attendance is in for an unforgettable experience.”

RADM Lushniak will participate in the bestowing of nearly 270 degrees, including Doctor of Optometry; Doctor of Audiology; Master of Public Health; Master of Education in Blindness and Visual Impairment and Master of Science degrees in Clinical Optometry, Occupational Therapy, Low Vision Impairment, Orientation & Mobility, and Vision Rehabilitation Therapy at the ceremony taking place on May 22 at 2:00 p.m. at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

Dr. Lushniak served as Deputy Surgeon General from November 2010 until July 17, 2013, when he assumed the duties of Acting Surgeon General. In 1990 he was accepted for the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) long term training program and he completed a three year residency in dermatology at the University of Cincinnati. During his time at the CDC he also served on special assignments and disaster response activities in Bangladesh, St. Croix, Russia, and Kosovo, was part of the CDC/NIOSH team at Ground Zero (World Trade Center) and part of the CDC team investigating the anthrax attacks in Washington, DC.

In 2004 he transitioned from the CDC to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as the Chief Medical Officer of the Office of Counterterrorism, and was appointed FDA Assistant Commissioner in 2005. He was promoted to Rear Admiral, Lower Half in 2006 and attained the rank of Rear Admiral, Upper Half in 2010. In 2010 RADM Lushniak completed his tour with the FDA as the FDA Assistant Commissioner, Counterterrorism Policy and Director of the Office of Counterterrorism and Emerging Threats within the Office of the Commissioner.

Dr. Lushniak attended the six-year Honors Program in Medical Education at Northwestern University and completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Sciences in 1981 and obtained his medical degree (MD) in 1983. In 1984 he completed the Masters of Public Health (MPH) degree at Harvard University.

A firm believer in leadership by example, RADM Lushniak promotes the core messages of the *National Prevention Strategy* via his active lifestyle. He is an avid long-distance bicyclist, runner and hiker. In 2012, he scaled the summit of the most heavily-glaciated peak in the United States, Washington's 14,000 foot Mount Rainier. He resides in Rockville, Maryland with his wife Dr. Patricia Cusumano and two daughters Larissa and Stephanie.

About Salus

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Public Health, Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Biomedicine and Occupational Therapy. There are more than 1,000 students, including PhD candidates, and more than 10,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.