



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **HELEN HUNT ANNOUNCED AS NEW KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY'S EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS DINNER GALA**

*James P. Hackett, President and Chief Executive Officer of Steelcase, Inc., to receive  
Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award*

Davenport University is proud to announce Academy and Emmy award-winning actress Helen Hunt as its new keynote speaker for the 2011 Excellence in Business Dinner Gala. The previously announced keynote speaker, Diane Keaton, is unfortunately unable to participate. James P. Hackett, President and Chief Executive Officer of Steelcase, Inc., will be presented the 2011 Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business (EIB) Award at this year's event.

#### **Davenport University's Excellence in Business Award Gala**

DeVos Place

6 p.m., May 6, 2011

"This evening is a celebration of business success and community service and it is an important way for us to raise funds for student scholarships," said Dr. Richard J. Pappas, President of Davenport University. "We are excited to have Helen join us for this event as she is so well-respected and admired for her talent."

In the 1990s, Helen Hunt emerged as one of the most popular actresses in America, winning four Emmy awards for her work in the NBC sitcom "Mad About You" (1992-99) and an Oscar for Best Actress for her role in "As Good as It Gets" (1997). Currently, Hunt is on the screens in "Soul Surfer," portraying Cheri Hamilton, the mother of a young surfer attacked by a shark.

Table reservations and purchase of individual tickets can be made by calling Julie

Vugteveen at 616-233-3412 or by visiting [www.davenport.edu/EIB](http://www.davenport.edu/EIB).

**About The Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award**

The Excellence in Business Dinner was established in 1998 in honor of alumnus Peter C. Cook. The award recognizes business and community leaders who exemplify the entrepreneurial spirit, success and generosity to community that are hallmarks of the Davenport University mission, vision and values.

More than \$1.7 million has been raised to benefit Davenport University Foundation scholarships through the annual award galas over the past 13 years. Previous award recipients include Peter C. Cook, Frederik Meijer, Richard M. DeVos, Wilbur A. Lettinga, David G. Frey, John Spoelhof, Robert L. Hooker, Betsy DeVos, Donald W. Maine, John C. Canepa, Fred P. Keller, Ambassador Peter F. Secchia, Doug DeVos and Steve Van Andel.

**About Davenport University**

Founded in 1866, Davenport is a private, non-profit university with campuses across Michigan and online courses serving an enrollment of more than 13,000 students. With tuition among the lowest of all private universities in the state, Davenport provides high academic quality, small class sizes, conveniently located campuses, faculty with real-world experience and more than 40 dynamic undergraduate and graduate programs addressing in-demand careers.

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