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**San Jose, Calif. – April 17, 2018** – Stedman Graham, a *New York Times* bestselling author and world-renowned speaker on Identity Leadership, will deliver the keynote address at the April 22 Northern California Commencement Ceremony for <u>National University</u>, which is among the largest private, nonprofit universities in California.

A widely-regarded speaker in the field of Identity Leadership, Graham's message is grounded in the fact that the key to success is self-leadership capability. He has authored 11 books, including two *New York Times* bestsellers, and as chairman and CEO of S. Graham & Associates, Graham teaches the process of becoming a more effective leader to audiences around the world. A veteran of the United States Army, he specializes in sectors such as education, military and nonprofits.

"During my time teaching at National University, I witnessed the dedication of its students and experienced the University's commitment to supporting them toward achieving their education and career goals," said Graham. "As they embark on this new phase of their lives, I am honored to share my message of leadership and giving back with National University graduates who are inspired lifelong learners, dedicated to making a positive impact in society."

Serving as a presidential faculty appointee at National University, Graham taught Identity Leadership at military bases all over the country, including bases where National University offers its programs. Earning a bachelor's degree in social work from Hardin-Simmons University and a master's degree in education from Ball State University, Graham's commitment to education and lifelong learning aligns with National University's founding mission to provide quality, accessible education to a diverse population of adult learners such as working parents, educators and the military community. About a quarter of National University students are active duty or have previously served in the military, and the University's Veteran Center is dedicated to supporting these students in their transition to campus and civilian life.

"Stedman Graham's involvement at National University has been deeply appreciated by our students, faculty and staff," said Dr. David Andrews, President of National University. "We

applaud his devotion to serving the global community, as he exemplifies the highest standards of leadership and public service that serve as a benchmark for our graduates."

Commitment to community development and mentorship is central to Graham's philosophy. He is the founder of several youth mentorship programs such as the Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, Graham's hometown, and is co-founder of The Community Alliance for Youth Success. Graham speaks and teaches from experience, having served in the United States Army and expands his positive impact on communities by supporting education programs for active military, veterans and their families.

The 2018 National University Northern California Commencement Ceremony is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 22 at the San Jose Convention Center. It will be presided over by Dr. David Andrews, National University President and Dr. Michael R. Cunningham, Chancellor of the National University System. More than 600 graduates will attend the ceremony, which recognizes a diverse student population and includes students completing their degree programs online and at the University's Northern California campuses.

National University's Southern California Commencement Ceremony is set for May 19 at San Diego's Petco Park.

## **ABOUT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

Founded in 1971, National University is among the largest, private, nonprofit universities in California. With more than 150,000 alumni, National University is the flagship institution of the National University System. National University is dedicated to making lifelong learning opportunities accessible, challenging, and relevant to a diverse population of students. Four schools and two colleges – the College of Letters and Sciences; the Sanford College of Education; the School of Business and Management; the School of Engineering and Computing; the School of Health and Human Services; and the School of Professional Studies – offer more than 100 graduate and undergraduate degrees and 23 teacher credentials. Programs are offered at locations throughout California and across the nation, and are also available online. National University is headquartered in La Jolla, California. <a href="http://www.nu.edu/">http://www.nu.edu/</a>