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For Immediate Release

Commencement Ceremony Brings to a Close EARTH University's 20th Anniversary Celebration

ATLANTA & COSTA RICA (December 9, 2010)—On December 10, EARTH University will surpass the 1,500 alumni-mark during its 18th Commencement Ceremony to be held on its campus in Guácimo, Limón, Costa Rica. The 80 graduates represent 16 countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa, including for the first time, Kenya.

The ceremony will include a keynote address by Costa Rican-American astronaut and physicist, Dr. Franklin Chang-Díaz. Dr. Chang-Díaz is Chairman and CEO of Ad Astra Rocket Company, a U.S. spaceflight engineering company dedicated to the development of advanced plasma rocket propulsion technology based in Houston, Texas and at EARTH-La Flor in Guanacaste, Costa Rica. Dr. Chang-Díaz, the first Latin American to go to space, will also be awarded an honorary doctorate during the program.

EARTH University will also recognize former first lady of Costa Rica, Marjorie Elliot de Oduber, for her family's 2005 donation to EARTH University of a 3,700 acre property in Costa Rica's northern Pacific coast. Today, EARTH University-La Flor, Daniel Oduber Quirós Center is dedicated to promoting innovative ideas that encourage sustainable development through business creation, social justice, technological innovation and the advancement of alternatives for environmental protection.

The occasion will mark the conclusion of EARTH University's 20th Anniversary celebration, which was commemorated throughout 2010 with the following activities:

- *EARTH Plants the Future*, a global tree planting event held on June 5, resulted in the simultaneous planting of more than a million trees in 34 countries.
- In August, EARTH recognized its three founding donors, US AID, W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Costa Rican Government at an event at the Costa Rican Congress.
- In September, more than 200 people attended EARTH's 2010 Gala Dinner in San José.

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- EARTH University President Dr. José Zaglul published, *Children of the Earth: My memories of EARTH University's history*, a personal reflection on the unique circumstances that lead to EARTH's creation, as well as its construction, operation and first 20 years.
- Anniversary activities continued in October with the *Pillars of EARTH: Sustainable Leadership Awards* event in Atlanta, recognizing six Atlanta business and civic leaders in sustainability, including TIME's 2007 Hero of the Environment, Ray Anderson, founder and chairman of Interface, Inc.

The graduation ceremony will be transmitted online at www.ustream.tv/channel/graduacion-earth-2010 on Friday, December 10 from 11 a.m. Eastern Time (-05:00 GMT) to approximately 12:30 p.m.

About EARTH University

EARTH University (www.earth.ac.cr) was founded with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Government of Costa Rica to prepare young people from economically-depressed communities in Latin America, the Caribbean and other regions, including Africa and Asia, to become agents for change in their communities. EARTH offers a four-year undergraduate program in agricultural sciences and natural resources management, providing a world-class scientific and technological education that emphasizes values, ethical entrepreneurship and environmental and social commitment. Through the generous support of donors and an endowment, EARTH University provides opportunities to young people who want to make a difference in the world but lack the financial resources for a higher education.

About EARTH University Foundation

EARTH University Foundation (www.earth-usa.org) was formed to support the educational vision of EARTH University through generous gifts from the global community and other programs and initiatives. The Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) public charity headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia.

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