



News

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Philadelphia University will honor Tomio Taki, a leader in textile and apparel manufacturing, with the honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters on Friday, April 29

Taki also will be awarded the Leader of Innovation Medal at Philadelphia University's Innovation Gala on Saturday, April 30

PHILADELPHIA, April 27, 2011— Philadelphia University will present Tomio Taki, managing member of Takihyo LLC and one-time owner of fashion apparel firm Anne Klein & Co., with the honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters on Friday, April 29 at 2 p.m. in The Kanbar Campus Center Performance Space at Philadelphia University.

The next evening, Taki will be presented with the 2011 Leader of Innovation Medal at Philadelphia University's Spirit of Innovation Gala on Saturday, April 30 at the Hyatt at the Bellevue.

Taki, a managing member of Takihyo LLC., is a leader in textile and apparel manufacturing who, at age 26, became president of Takihyo Co., Ltd., a Japanese textile manufacturer established by his family more than 250 years ago. He remains an advisor to the company, which is now publicly traded and manufactures ready-to-wear apparel lines as well as textiles, and includes 24 subsidiary companies including food processing, real estate and chemical products. His company at one time owned designer firm Anne Klein & Company and was a partner in The Donna Karan Company.

“An accomplished and distinguished business leader, Mr. Taki's contributions to the global textile and fashion industries have forged a path for students and have created opportunities far and wide for graduates entering the 21st century work force,” said Bill Whitmore, chair of Philadelphia University's Board of Trustees.

“His lifelong commitment to mentoring young talent is an inspiration to us all, and his generosity, passion and philanthropic spirit have helped many people realize their dreams,” Whitmore continued.

The Leader of Innovation Medal honors innovative entrepreneurs who have made significant contributions across many fields that better society and which shine a light on the impact of innovation all around us.

At the Spirit of Innovation Gala, Philadelphia University will present the Leader of Innovation Medal to three other outstanding leaders: José Maria Alapont, president and CEO of Federal-Mogul Corp.; Mo Meidar '70, H'09, chairman and CEO of MAG IAS; and Dorothy Roberts, chairman of The Echo Design Group, Inc.

“These friends and alumni are world-class leaders and innovators,” said Philadelphia University President Stephen Spinelli Jr. “As a model for professional university education, Philadelphia University is focused on innovation. The careers and successes of our honorees across a range of disciplines inspire us. They represent the ideals set forth in our bold Strategic Plan and signature approach to teaching and learning that gives our talented students a real competitive advantage. Not only are our honorees accomplished in their fields, they exemplify the University’s mission, sense of purpose and innovative spirit.”

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,500 students enrolled in more than 60 undergraduate and graduate programs. As the model for professional university education for the 21st century, the University prepares students to be leaders in their professions, in an active, collaborative and real-world learning environment infused with the liberal arts. Philadelphia University includes the School of Business and the School of Design and Engineering in its newly formed College of Design, Engineering and Commerce, as well as Schools of Architecture, Liberal Arts, and Science and Health.