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News

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Philadelphia University Names the Lawrence N. Field DEC Center for Real Estate Entrepreneur

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 23, 2014—Philadelphia University has named the Lawrence N. Field DEC Center for the real estate entrepreneur in recognition of his generous \$3.5 million gift to the University.

“Larry Field’s entrepreneurial spirit exemplifies the “Powered To Do” mission of leadership and innovation we instill in our students through our signature Nexus Learning approach,” said President Stephen Spinelli Jr. “Philadelphia University is grateful for his generosity and proud to name the Lawrence N. Field DEC Center after one of the business world’s most talented, as well as kindest, persons.”



The Lawrence N. Field DEC Center, which opened in January 2013, is a 40,000 square-foot dynamic space that houses the Kanbar College of Design, Engineering and Commerce, which features an award-winning curriculum that forges collaborations between designers, engineers and entrepreneurs. The DEC Center was designed to support and enhance the innovative DEC curriculum, including industry engagement projects.

Field is the founder and principal of NSB Associates Inc., a California-based real estate development and investment company, for which he currently serves as chairman and chief executive officer. Over the course of his career, he has been involved in the acquisition and development of more than \$1 billion of real estate in Southern California.

“I met Steve Spinelli more than a decade ago when he was vice provost for entrepreneurship at Babson College,” Field said. “I am impressed with President Spinelli’s vision for Philadelphia University and his very close connection to the students. I gave this gift because of my friendship with President Spinelli and my feeling for the quality of the student body.”

Field began his career in 1959 as the principal of a real-estate brokerage company in New York. After relocating to Los Angeles, he managed property and represented, among others, Harry Helmsley and the Loews Corporation.

In 1976, he co-founded The Richlar Partnership and developed over one million square feet of commercial and industrial property in the west L.A. area, and built more than 800 single-family homes in surrounding counties. In 1983, Field formed NSB Associates, with a portfolio that includes more than 2.5 million square feet of commercial space.

Field holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Baruch College in New York and a Juris Doctor from New York Law School. He received an honorary doctorate in commercial science from Baruch in 2004.

His other philanthropic interests include Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where he is a member of the board of governors and has donated major gifts for research on diabetes and memory disorders. He also serves on the boards of The Los Angeles Music Center and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association.

In June, the Lawrence N. Field DEC Center became the second campus building to earn LEED gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, joining the Center for Sustainability, Energy Efficiency and Design in reaching this prestigious sustainability standard.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,600 students enrolled in more than 70 undergraduate and graduate programs. As the model for professional university education, 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 innovative Kanbar College of Design, Engineering and Commerce; the College of Architecture and the Built Environment; and the College of Science, Health and the Liberal Arts. For more information, go to www.PhilaU.edu.