



**PHILADELPHIA**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
**News**

Contact:  
**Debbie Goldberg**  
Director of Media Relations  
[GoldbergD@philau.edu](mailto:GoldbergD@philau.edu)  
215.951.2851

## **Eileen Martinson '86, CEO of Sparta Systems Inc., named chair of Philadelphia University Board of Trustees**

PHILADELPHIA, June 20, 2013 – Eileen Martinson '86, a highly regarded entrepreneur, dedicated education advocate and chief executive officer of Sparta Systems Inc., has been appointed chair of Philadelphia University's Board of Trustees.

She succeeds William C. Whitmore Jr. '82, president and CEO of AlliedBarton, who became chair in 2009 and who will remain on the Board.

Martinson, a 20-year software veteran and a leader in developing successful global business strategies, was recently named a 2013 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award® recipient, which is considered one of the world's most prestigious business awards.

"Eileen Martinson's leadership, business acumen, devotion to educational causes and commitment to the value of a Philadelphia University education will help lead this University to the next level of higher education innovation as we continue to build on the accomplishments of our ambitious Strategic Plan and our vision as the model for professional university education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century," Philadelphia University President Stephen Spinelli Jr. said.

"At the same time, we are grateful to Bill Whitmore for his leadership as board chair and his years of service as a University trustee during one of the most exciting and important times in the University's 129-year history," President Spinelli said. "Bill helped lead Philadelphia University through the development and implementation of a bold strategic plan and our largest and most successful capital campaign, which has helped Philadelphia University become a transformative force in higher education. We are pleased that he will remain on the Board to provide guidance and counsel as we face both the myriad opportunities and challenges in today's higher education landscape."

A member of the University's Board of Trustees since 2010 and first vice chair since June 2011, Eileen Martinson was honored with Philadelphia University's 2012 Leader of Innovation Medal for outstanding achievements in her field.

"It is a privilege to be elected as chair of the Philadelphia University Board of Trustees," said Martinson. "As a business executive, one issue that is so important to me is that students graduate from college with relevant skills that are in demand by 21<sup>st</sup>-century employers. That is exactly what is happening at Philadelphia University, as evidenced by the 96 percent job placement and graduate school acceptance rate recently reported in the University's latest survey of graduates."

“Philadelphia University’s focus on active, collaborative learning and strong engagement with an increasing pool of industry partners are critically important factors for students who are considering higher education options. The University’s focus on careers in the health sciences, architecture, design, engineering and business are preparing students for careers that are making a difference in people’s lives and addressing societal needs,” Martinson continued. “I am thrilled and honored to be involved in the education of our future leaders.”

President Spinelli noted that the establishment of The Eileen Martinson ’86 Fund for the Undergraduate Capstone Experience “is just one example of Eileen’s support for and commitment to the PhilaU vision and signature Nexus Learning approach to teaching and learning, which is helping our students gain the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the workplace.”

Martinson brings innovation and vision to everything she does. At Sparta Systems, which provides industry leading global enterprise quality management software solutions, Martinson’s goal was to push the company into an accelerated growth mode. In less than two years as CEO, she has done just that, putting into place a vision and strategy that has already delivered positive results. The Sparta Innovation Program was created to foster new ideas and innovations, and the company was honored with NJTC’s 2012 Software Company of the Year Award.

In addition, Martinson is a noted philanthropist, with a passion and dedication to improving education programs, mentoring young adults and to ensuring our returning veterans have the tools necessary to help them successfully integrate back into society. As an active member of the Martinson Family foundation, she supports programs in over 25 universities across the country to encourage K-8 math and science teachers to broaden their knowledge and skills.

Martinson also is a member of the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton Board of Directors and the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,600 students enrolled in more than 60 undergraduate and graduate programs. As a 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](http://www.PhilaU.edu).