



**PHILADELPHIA**  
UNIVERSITY  
**News**

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**Philadelphia University launches new series on the transformation of higher education with a talk by innovation thought leader Roger Martin on Jan. 9**

*Martin, dean of the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, will kick off PhilaU's series **The Transformation Imperative: reframing the university***

**PHILADELPHIA**, Jan. 8, 2013— Philadelphia University will launch *The Transformation Imperative: reframing the university*, a semester-long series of talks on the future of higher education, on Wednesday, Jan. 9 with a discussion by innovation and business expert Roger Martin, dean of the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto.

Martin, a bestselling author and respected academic, will speak in PhilaU's DEC Center Forum from 5 to 6 p.m. about the transformation of higher education in the 21st century as a result of new technology and innovative teaching practices. His books include *Fixing the Game: Bubbles, Crashes and What Capitalism Can Learn from the NHL*, named a best finance and economics book in 2011.

"Roger Martin's work has had a groundbreaking impact on higher education," Philadelphia University Provost Randy Swearer said. "As an innovator and thought leader, his interests resonate with our efforts to transform Philadelphia University into a national model for professional education."

*The Transformation Imperative* was initiated as a way for Philadelphia University to engage the broader higher education community in a discussion of educational models and practices that will best enable students to succeed in the coming years. Philadelphia University's recent academic initiatives have explored new ways of educating students, and include the interdisciplinary Kanbar College of Design, Engineering and Commerce and the Center for Teaching Innovation and Nexus Learning, which focuses on PhilaU's signature approach to teaching and learning that is active, collaborative, related to the real world and infused with the liberal arts.

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The innovative Kanbar College was named the top 2012 educational initiative in an international competition administered by prestigious design publication Core77, and *The Transformation Imperative* is expected to further encourage PhilaU and other higher education institutions to examine how to best deliver education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

“We believe higher education is at a critical juncture that challenges the traditional models of colleges and universities,” Swearer said. “Those institutions that are able to reframe their futures, continually innovate and remain focused on academic quality will be best positioned to thrive in such a disruptive environment.”

The Transformation Imperative series will continue with three additional events during the spring semester, including:

- Tuesday, Jan. 29: The use and implementation of badges in higher education, with speakers from the New America Foundation, Mozilla Open Badge System, University of California-Davis and Purdue University.
- Friday, Feb. 22: Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and the role they play in higher education.
- Thursday and Friday, March 21-22: The relationship of peer networks and institutions, featuring speakers from Zipcar, UnCollege, Occupy University and North Carolina State University.

More information about the series is available [on Philadelphia University’s website](#).

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