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CONTACT:
Chris Clark
Media Relations
215.951.2851

Philadelphia University Announces First Doctoral Program

*Nation's first school for textile education to offer the mid-Atlantic's only
Ph.D. in Textile Engineering and Science.*

PHILADELPHIA (May 7, 2003)— Recognizing the dramatic changes that have taken place in the U.S. textile industry, and anticipating the changes that will occur as it realigns itself as a high-technology, product-development industry, Philadelphia University will offer its first doctoral program – the Ph.D. in Textile Engineering and Science – in Fall 2003. This unique doctoral program, the only one in the mid-Atlantic United States, will focus on leading-edge textile technology within the growing fields of aerospace, biomedical materials, recreation, and protective materials.

“We are very proud and gratified to be introducing our first Ph.D. program,” said Philadelphia University President James P. Gallagher, Ph.D. “It is a milestone event in the extraordinary evolution of this university, and it will serve as an intellectual growth engine for innovation in what has become a truly global industry.”

The program will provide advanced instruction in the classroom, and will feature federally funded research projects and collaboration with leading companies and organizations such as the National Textile Center, whose mission is to enhance the competitiveness of the US textile industry.

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“With the recent Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) accreditation of our B.S. in Textile Engineering Program and this new Ph.D. program, we are able to offer the full spectrum of textile engineering education to our students,” said David Brookstein, Sc.D., dean of Philadelphia University’s School of Textiles and Materials Technology. “These graduates will ultimately help fuel the explosive growth of new textile opportunities, and will help guide the United State’s textile industry into a high-tech developer and producer of specialty products.”

Richard Bendis, president of Innovation Philadelphia, a public/private partnership created to enhance Philadelphia's global innovation economy by attracting, growing and retaining technology-based businesses to the region, recently stated, "Philadelphia University’s decision to offer a unique doctoral level program focused on textile engineering and science will, no doubt, have a very positive impact on the technology base for Pennsylvania.”

“It is a natural progression for us to introduce a Ph.D. degree-granting program at Philadelphia University,” stated Dr. Carol Fixman, dean of the Faculty and vice president for Academic Affairs. “This university’s rich heritage, which began more than a century ago, is grounded in textile education. And, while over the years we have greatly broadened our academic programs, we continue to offer an exceptional and forward-thinking education in textiles and materials technology.”

Doctoral candidates will pursue some minor studies courses in engineering at Temple University through a collaborative academic agreement with its College of Engineering.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,500 part- and full-time students from 38 states and 42 countries. The University offers more than 40 undergraduate and graduate degree programs leading to the bachelor of science, bachelor of architecture master’s, and doctoral degrees. Academic programs encompass architecture, design, business, textiles and materials technology, fashion, science and health.