



NEWS

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U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah, D-Pa., to speak at Philadelphia University Commencement on Sunday, May 16 at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts

Rep. Fattah will receive the honorary degree Doctor of Engineering

PHILADELPHIA, April 12, 2010 – U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah, D-Pa., will speak at Philadelphia University's Commencement on Sunday, May 16 at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts. He will be awarded the honorary degree Doctor of Engineering.

"Rep. Chaka Fattah is the country's champion for education. He has written or sponsored numerous pieces of legislation to help students both aspire to and afford a college or university education," said Philadelphia University President Stephen Spinelli Jr., Ph.D. "His leadership on these important issues has helped many students aim for and achieve a higher education degree, and all the benefits that accrue from that."

"I am honored by the invitation to address the 2010 graduating class of future leaders of our city and our nation," Congressman Fattah said. "I look forward to Commencement at Philadelphia University, one of our greatest local institutions of higher learning."

Fattah has established a national reputation as a passionate and effective advocate for public education, especially in terms of leveling the playing field for the underserved students in the nation's poorest urban schools.

He authored the 1998 legislation for GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), which is designed to encourage and help promote higher education aspirations in students as young as middle school age. Last year, he authored the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which allows students a tax credit of up to \$2,500 to help pay for tuition and other college expenses.

Fattah is serving his eighth term representing the 2nd District of Pennsylvania, covering parts of Philadelphia, including Philadelphia University, and Montgomery County. He serves on the House Committee on Appropriations and chairs the bipartisan Congressional Urban Caucus. Previously he served 12 years in the Pennsylvania State House and Senate. Fattah has a master's

degree in Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government.

Some 700 undergraduate and graduate students will receive diplomas at the 2010 Commencement ceremony, which will be held at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 16. For more information, go to <http://www.philau.edu/commencement/>.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,350 students enrolled in more than 50 undergraduate and graduate programs. As the model professional university for the 21st century, the University focuses on professionally oriented programs that prepare students for successful careers, with a strong foundation in the liberal arts and a commitment to engaged, real-world and collaborative learning. Philadelphia University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts, and Science and Health.