



**PHILADELPHIA**  
UNIVERSITY

## News

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### OBEY Clothing Designer Mike Ternosky '00 To Receive 2016 Spirit of Design Award at Philadelphia University's Fashion Show on April 21

**Philadelphia, April 6, 2016**—Mike Ternosky '00, head designer for the influential OBEY Clothing brand, which specializes in progressive design in apparel and classic streetwear, will receive the prestigious 2016 Spirit of Design Award at Philadelphia University's Fashion Show on Thursday, April 21, 7 p.m. at Moulin at Sherman Mills in East Falls.

Growing up skateboarding and surfing in Avalon, N.J., Ternosky came to PhilaU to study fashion design. After graduating, this combination of interests led him to California, where in 2000 he helped establish OBEY Clothing as an offshoot of the work of Shepard Fairey, the famed artist known for his iconic "Hope" poster of President Obama. With Ternosky, he creates designs that represent his influences, ideals and philosophy.

"I had a real passion for the punk-rock, streetwear aesthetic," Ternosky told PhilaU students during a campus visit last fall. He also talked about the importance of having true passion for their work and making sure they have the building blocks to succeed.

"I learned key technical things at this school," Ternosky said of PhilaU. "A strong foundation is essential."

"We are thrilled to be presenting the 2016 Spirit of Design Award to an outstanding alumnus this year," said Fashion Design Program Director Sheila Connelly. "Mike's work as design director at OBEY has been lauded on a national level. OBEY is a brand that is instantly recognizable to our students and prospective students and we are proud to have the opportunity to honor Mike's design talent."

Philadelphia University's Fashion Show is a dazzling event highlighting each year's most creative and innovative student fashion and textile designs. This must-see Philadelphia fashion event features award presentations and several hundred looks ranging from evening gowns to children's wear.

Produced by fashion merchandising and management students, the fashion show runway will feature stunning gowns created for the American Heart Association's annual red dress event, striking fashions shown on the New York Fashion Week runway and innovative senior capstone collections.

Once again, senior fashion design students have teamed up with textile design students as part of a unique collaboration to create custom print, woven and knit fabrics made in PhilaU's state-of-the-art textile studios. Such collaborations and industry engagement projects will be further supported by the new [Fashion and Textiles Futures Center](#), scheduled to open this summer.

Emmy Award-winning fashion celebrity Carson Kressley H'13, a member of PhilaU's board of trustees, will serve as host of the Fashion Show and NBC10's Bill Henley will serve as the show's emcee. Past shows have drawn an audience of more than 1,800 industry representatives, alumni, students, family members and friends.

In addition to the Fashion Show, there will be a First Look Show at 3 p.m. highlighting the work of seniors and offering industry representatives a chance to view more closely the work of graduating students.

The Spirit of Design Award, first given in 2002 to legendary designer Geoffrey Beene, is presented to those who have made outstanding contributions to the fashion industry and have served as inspirations to fashion students and young designers. Past awardees include Nicole Miller, Tommy Hilfiger, Francisco Costa, Mary McFadden and John Varvatos, and PhilaU fashion design alumni William Calvert, known for his exquisite dresses and wedding gowns, and Jay McCarroll, winner of "Project Runway."

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <http://www.philau.edu/fashionshow/2016>.

*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, through its award-winning Nexus Learning approach, 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).*