



Founding PhD Project President Recognized with Distinguished Service Award

Bernard J. Milano honored at Business School DEI Collaborative's annual conference

MONTVALE, NJ (March 11, 2022) – The [PhD Project](#) – a non-profit that is helping create a stronger, more diverse workforce – is proud to announce that its retired founding president, **Bernard “Bernie” J. Milano**, has been honored with the inaugural Bernard J. Milano Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding work as a visionary and champion of diversity.

The prestigious award – which was presented at the Business School DEI Collaborative's three-day conference in Athens, Georgia – was created to recognize individuals who take action to address an issue of diversity in society.

“Bernie is a true trailblazer. His vision and steady leadership of The PhD Project will impact many generations to come,” said Randy Groomes, conference host and awards committee chair. “We believe this award will inspire other individuals to take risks and achieve great things to promote a more equitable society.”

Milano served as president of the KPMG Foundation – the founding partner of The PhD Project – for nearly 28 years and president of The PhD Project for 26 years, before retiring from both roles in 2020. Under his leadership, The PhD Project was responsible for increasing the number of minority business professors from 294 to over 1,600. The Temple University graduate started his career with KPMG in the audit practice. He holds honorary degrees of Doctor of Humane Letters from North Carolina A&T State University, Kent State University and William Paterson University.

Milano served on both President George W. Bush and President Donald J. Trump's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He has received more than a dozen awards for his incredible work in diversity and inclusion, including Top 20 Diversity Champions by Diversity Edge Magazine, Working Mother Magazine Champions of Diversity, National Association of Black Accountants Legends Award and was the inaugural recipient of the HBCU Business Dean's Bernard J. Milano Excellence Award. He has also received the Bernard J. Milano Lifetime Service Award from Beta Alpha Psi, Beta Alpha Psi's Accountant of the Year, AICPA's Special Recognition Award, Beta Gamma Sigma's Entrepreneur of the Year, Beta Alpha Psi President's Award and was most recently named a 2022 AACSB Influential Leader. He currently serves on the Episcopal Diocese of Newark Standing Committee, Beta Gamma Sigma Board of Directors as Secretary/Treasurer and Chair of the GlobalMindED Board of Directors.

“We are so incredibly proud to celebrate Bernie's honor,” said Blane Ruschak, president of The PhD Project. “He has done so much for The PhD Project. With his courageous leadership, unwavering commitment and inspiring enthusiasm, Bernie has driven The PhD Project's mission forward and has made an indelible impact on diversity in academia and business.”

The PhD Project is also honored to recognize Ken Bouyer, who received the inaugural Ken Bouyer Corporate Diversity Leadership Award at the conference. It's presented to corporate leaders who have made a substantial impact on diversity issues through their service in a corporate capacity.

About The PhD Project

Founded in 1994, [The PhD Project](#) works to increase diversity in the business world. Through its unique model, the nonprofit organization's Black/African American, Latinx/ Hispanic American and Native American members pursue business PhDs with the intent to become university faculty, teaching and guiding underrepresented students who aspire to a career in business. Since its launch, The Project has been responsible for quintupling the number of historically underrepresented professors, administrators and academic leaders at an extensive list of academic programs, helping more than 1,400 former business professionals and undergraduate students receive their doctoral degree. The PhD Project also includes more than 250 students currently enrolled in a business PhD program.

For more information on The PhD Project, webinars and sponsors visit www.phdproject.org and follow the program on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

###