



### The PhD Project Announces 2024 Hall of Fame Inductees

*30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Honorees Represent Management, Accounting and only the Second Non-Academic in Project History*

**MONTVALE, N.J. (September 19, 2024)** – Celebrating 30 years, [The PhD Project](#) – a nationally recognized non-profit organization aimed at diversifying the business world by first diversifying the front of the class at business schools – has welcomed three new inductees into its Hall of Fame; **Dr. Jennifer Joe**, Professor in the Accounting and Information Systems Department of the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech; **Tara Perino**, Senior Director of Operations for The PhD Project, who is only the second non-academic to be inducted in Project history after past president Bernard J. Milano; and **Dr. Jeffrey Robinson**, Provost & Interim Chancellor at Rutgers University-Newark.

“Our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hall of Fame inductees exemplify our strong roots and three-decade commitment to enriching education for all,” said Blane Ruschak, president of The PhD Project. “Jeff started with The PhD Project 27 years ago and has aspired to leadership and now inspires our members and countless business students. Jennifer and Tara have been with The Project since its inception, one from the perspective of a charter member of one of our Doctoral Student Associations (DSAs) and the other from the much-needed, behind-the-scenes support of the organization. This anniversary year is the perfect time for three individuals with such organizational history to be welcomed into The PhD Project Hall of Fame.”

**Dr. Jennifer Joe** is the John E Peterson Chaired Professor in the Accounting and Information Systems Department at Virginia Tech. She is an internationally recognized leader in accounting and an award-winning scholar who is actively involved in auditing policy and regulation. Dr. Joe’s research examines the role and impact of auditors and valuation specialists in financial reporting and diversity and inclusion in accounting. She was the 2021 Presidential Scholar of the American Accounting Association (AAA). Dr. Joe was President of the AAA Auditing Section from 2023-2024 and is a member of the inaugural Board of Trustees of the AAA Foundation. Her scholarship on accounting faculty diversity garnered research awards and her diversity work at the University of Delaware’s Lerner College of Business won the 2022 Innovations That Inspire Award from Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Dr. Joe has been a PhD Project member from its inception and is a frequent presenter and mentor at its conferences. She earned her PhD at the University of Pittsburgh and BBA in accounting from Baruch College at City University of New York (CUNY).

**Tara Perino** started her career with KPMG in 1988 and has been with The PhD Project, founded by the KPMG Foundation, since its inception in 1994. She is currently Senior Director of Operations, and as one of her letters of nomination states, “Tara has become a truly ingrained part of the fabric of The PhD Project. She has spent countless hours, days, and weeks away from her family serving The PhD Project’s mission.” Prior to moving full-time to The PhD Project, Tara managed KPMG Foundation programs for 27 years. Outside of The PhD Project, Tara is just as committed. She is a past chairperson of the Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council and past member of the Bergen County Volunteer Center Board of Directors. She also served on the Board of Directors for Junior Achievement of Bergen County and the Waldwick Education Foundation. Tara currently serves as co-chair for KPMG Montvale office’s Community Impact Program and is a member of the KPMG Culture Council. She has a bachelor’s degree in social science from Ramapo College.

**Dr. Jeffrey Robinson** currently serves as Provost & Interim Chancellor at Rutgers University-Newark. He is an award-winning author and researcher, keynote speaker at national and international events and conferences

across six continents, business school professor, and higher education administrator. Dr. Robinson is the Prudential Chair in Business at Rutgers Business School but has served as the Academic Director of The Center for Urban Entrepreneurship and Economic Development and Director of Special Programs at the Rutgers Advanced Institute for the Study of Entrepreneurship and Development (RAISED). Through his research, academic leadership and community-engaged scholarship, Dr. Robinson makes direct impacts on corporate workplaces, entrepreneurs and economic development policy in the state of New Jersey and beyond. Dr. Robinson has completed five degrees in the areas of engineering, urban studies and business. He earned his PhD in management and organizations at Columbia University's Graduate School of Business.

### **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 students who aspire to a career in business. Since its launch, The Project has been responsible for sextupling the number of underrepresented professors, administrators and academic leaders at an extensive list of academic programs, helping more than 1,700 former business professionals and undergraduate students attain their doctoral degree. The PhD Project also includes close to 250 students currently enrolled in a business PhD program. For more information on The PhD Project, webinars and sponsors visit [www.phdproject.org](http://www.phdproject.org) and follow the program on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

###