

Momentum!

Economic Progress in the Greater Philadelphia Region



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Drexel University: Committed to Growth and Collaboration in Greater Philadelphia

Since its founding in 1891, Drexel University has remained faithful to the vision of its founder, Philadelphia financier and philanthropist Anthony J. Drexel, who with the establishment of the Drexel Institute of Art, Science and Industry launched an institution of higher learning uniquely suited to the needs of a rapidly growing industrial society and of the young men and women seeking their place in it.

Although distinguished by decades of growth and change from the Drexel Institute, the University's greatly expanded enrollment, campus and curriculum reflect a history of responsiveness to societal and individual needs like those Anthony Drexel sought to address in his day.

After more than a decade of unprecedented growth that transformed Drexel into a comprehensive, national research university, Drexel continues its upward trajectory under the leadership of John A. Fry, who began his tenure as the University's 14th president in August 2010.

In his first major address to the Drexel community, Fry made a new commitment to the neighborhoods surrounding Drexel to improve the public environment and the lives of residents by exploring opportunities for better housing, public education, retail and cultural amenities. This commitment is part of a larger aspiration for Drexel to become the most civically engaged university in the country across all three dimensions of engagement: academic; student and employee voluntarism; and institutionally supported neighborhood investment.

Through its cooperative education program—where students alternate periods of classroom study with professional employment—Drexel already maintains strong ties with Greater Philadelphia's businesses, placing more than 4,000 students each year in jobs with employer organizations in the business, government, healthcare and education sectors.

As the University's campus continues to expand, Drexel has also increased its commitment to sustainability. Fry recently signed the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment, validating Drexel's pledge to eliminate its carbon footprint, promote research and educational efforts and equip the University to contribute to stabilizing the earth's climate.

In one year alone, Drexel will decrease its carbon footprint from 34,990 metric tons in 2010 to 7,880 metric tons in 2011 by using 100 percent green power. Through an agreement with Community Energy, Inc., Drexel will purchase Renewable Energy Certificates equal to 100 percent of its energy use, which ranked the University for the first time in the U.S. EPA's National Top 50 list of the largest green power purchasers.

Launched in 2008, the Drexel Green initiative covers all aspects of operations, buildings, academic initiatives and student life, and is responsible for strategic planning to further sustainable practices and policies. As part of the initiative, the University became the first institution in the country to deploy Viridity Energy's VPower System™, an energy monitoring system at its University City Main Campus, for which Drexel was recognized by PennFuture, a leading Pennsylvania environmental advocacy organization.

Drexel's new buildings are constructed according to green standards. The Constantine N. Papadakis Integrated Sciences Building, scheduled for completion in 2011, will become the first academic building in the country to include a biowall or living biofilter for energy

efficiency and improved air quality. The building's design is environmentally sensitive and will create Drexel's first Silver LEED-certified building according to the U.S. Green Building Council.

Drexel has a history of bringing firsts to Philadelphia. Here are a few of Drexel's many pioneering initiatives:

- Established in 1919, Drexel's co-operative education program is one of the nation's oldest, largest and most successful. Approximately 1,500 companies in 29 states and 38 international locations participate in the program.
- In 1983, Drexel became the first university to require all students to have microcomputers.
- In 2000, Drexel became the first major university to implement a fully wireless campus.
- In 2002, the University launched DrexelOne Mobile, the first wireless Web portal service for students, followed in 2011 by the DrexelOne Mobile app, the first university smartphone portal available for five smartphone platforms.
- In 2005, Drexel was among the first institutions in the nation to distribute free iPods to incoming freshmen in the School of Education to explore new ways of integrating the latest technologies into teaching.
- Drexel became the first major research university to open a new law school in 25 years with the founding of the Earle Mack School of Law in 2006, and Drexel has one of only two law schools in the nation that follow a co-operative education model.
- The School of Public Health is the only fully accredited public health school in Philadelphia, and one of only two in Pennsylvania.
- Drexel Athletics has eight NCAA Division I sports for men and eight for women, making Drexel one of the few colleges or universities in the nation that enjoys total parity between men's and women's athletics. As a result, Drexel was named No. 1 in the nation for athletic gender equity by U.S. News & World Report .
- Drexel is a pioneer in eLearning, offering degrees online since 1996 including the first fully online master's degree.

For more information on Drexel or to follow news about the University, please visit www.drexel.edu

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