



NEWS RELEASE

from

AICUP

Association of Independent Colleges
and Universities of Pennsylvania

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AICUP HONORS SENATOR PATRICK BROWNE FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN PA

HARRISBURG, April 4, 2017 -- The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP) presented its annual Ben Franklin Medal for Distinguished Achievement on Behalf of Higher Education to Senator Patrick Browne Monday night at the Harrisburg Hilton. The Benjamin Franklin Medal is awarded each year during AICUP's Annual Meeting to individuals or organizations that have made an extraordinary impact on Pennsylvania's colleges and universities.

"During his long tenure in the General Assembly, Senator Browne has played an influential role in establishing public policies that benefit Pennsylvania's colleges and universities and its students. As a member of the House Finance Committee, he was influential in the passage of the 1997 *Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act*, which established fair ground rules for colleges and universities to meet in order to maintain their tax exemption. As both Senate Majority Whip and Senate Appropriations Chairman, Senator Browne has also worked to preserve and increase funding for college students during tight budget years," said AICUP President Don Francis in announcing the award.

"While Senator Browne has taken legislative leadership over many complex issues such as basic education funding and pension reform, we in the private college sector are delighted that he also has time to work on higher education issues. He certainly deserves the recognition of this Ben Franklin Medal award."

Senator Browne is the 27th recipient of the Ben Franklin Medal for Distinguished Achievement on Behalf of Higher Education, an award that has been given by AICUP to outstanding government leaders annually since 1992.

The Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), the only statewide organization that serves exclusively the interests of private higher education within the Commonwealth, exists to complement and support the work of campus leaders. With a membership of 89 private colleges and universities within Pennsylvania, the Association provides a variety of services and programs tailored specifically to the needs and situation of

independent higher education. A list of AICUP's member colleges and universities is included on its website at www.aicup.org.

NOTE: Photos attached.



From left to right, DeSales University President Very Rev. Bernard F. O'Connor, Senator Pat Browne, Cedar Crest University President Carmen Twillie Ambar and Moravian College President Bryon L. Grigsby.



DeSales University President Very Rev. Bernard F. O'Connor presents the Ben Franklin Medal for Distinguished Achievement on Behalf of Higher Education to Senator Patrick Browne.