



NEWS RELEASE

from

AICUP

Association of Independent Colleges
and Universities of Pennsylvania

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AICUP CELEBRATES FORMER JUNIATA COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

AICUP Awards Dr. Thomas R. Kepple Jr. the Francis J. Michelini Award for Outstanding Service to Higher Education

HARRISBURG, MARCH 24, 2015 -- The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP) presented Dr. Thomas R. Kepple Jr. with the Francis J. Michelini Award for Outstanding Service to Higher Education during an awards ceremony at AICUP's annual meeting of its 89 member college and university presidents last night.

In a statement released to the press, AICUP President Dr. Don Francis thanked Kepple for his years of dedicated service to independent higher education.

"Individuals like Dr. Kepple, those who devote countless years and seemingly endless energy to advancing colleges and universities and the students they serve, are truly the backbone of the independent higher education system," said Francis. "The unwavering support of these educators, administrators and friends of higher ed is what allows our schools and students to grow and thrive. The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania greatly thanks Dr. Kepple for his service to our schools and to the communities we serve."

Kepple, who served as president of Juniata College for 15 years, has dedicated nearly 40 years to higher education. Kepple served as vice president for business and community relations at the University of the South for nine years prior to his presidency at Juniata and served as provost at Rhodes College before that. Additionally, he is the founder of a nonprofit organization that helps the families of private college students by offering a prepaid tuition plan. He now serves as president of the nonprofit American Academic Leadership Institute, a Washington D.C.-based organization that "provides leadership identification, development, and support programs across all sectors of public and private higher education."

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The Francis J. Michelini Award for Outstanding Service to Higher Education is presented to individuals who have used their talent to strengthen independent higher education's ability to serve students and communities. The award has been given to 22 recipients since its inception in 1992. Named for Francis J. Michelini, former president of Wilkes University and AICUP, the award celebrates the contributions of individuals who have served as leaders within the independent higher education sector.

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: Photo attached.

Caption: Dr. Thomas Kepple stands with Susquehanna University president Dr. Jay Lemons after receiving the Francis J. Michelini Award for Outstanding Service to Higher Education at the Hotel Hershey.

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