

# Rowan adds Medals of Excellence to Commencement Week programming



May 1, 2015

Rowan University, which is changing its Commencement program in 2015 from two ceremonies over two days to six ceremonies over four days, is starting another new tradition this year: honoring individuals with Medals of Excellence.

The awards will be presented during college-specific Commencement ceremonies in May in one of three categories: Distinguished Service to the University or their community; Research; and Alumni Achievement.

"By awarding Medals of Excellence we recognize the contributions that individuals make to our institution, our communities and the world around us," said Rowan President Dr. Ali Houshmand.

## RCOB awards two

The William G. Rohrer College of Business will present its first-ever Medal of Excellence for Alumni Achievement to Commencement speaker Mike Fasulo and a Medal of Excellence for Distinguished Service to Daniel Ruotolo.

Fasulo, a 1982 graduate of Glassboro State College, is president and COO of Sony Electronics where he's responsible for overseeing the electronics business of Sony Corporation in the United States.

Ruotolo, managing partner of CPA firm Ruotolo, Spewak & Co., of Mt. Laurel, has helped train dozens of Rowan students in accounting and each year some 10 to 15 Rowan students intern with his firm.

Ruotolo also serves as chair of the Rowan University Accounting Advisory Board and was recently instrumental in bringing together that board and the Accounting Mentorship Program to implement a Mock Interview Program.

## Critical acclaim

The first Medal of Excellence to

Statewide leader in higher ed

The College of Education will honor Rochelle Hendricks, New Jersey's Secretary of Higher Education, with a Medal of Excellence for Distinguished Service.

Hendricks, appointed by Gov. Chris Christie in 2011, is the state's first Secretary of Higher Education.

She is a member of the New Jersey Partnership for Action and chair of the Council on Innovation, a founding member of the Policy Steering Council for the Center for Higher Education Strategic Information and Governance at Stockton University, a member of the board for the Educational Leadership Foundation of New Jersey, and an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees for the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Engineering has no borders

The first Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering Medal of Excellence for Alumni Achievement will be awarded to Walt Walker, who earned a B.S. in civil engineering from Rowan in 2005 and an M.S. in environmental engineering from Rowan in 2006.

Walker is an environmental engineer with Cardno BCM, in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., a registered professional engineer in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and a recipient of the Rowan Distinguished Young Alumnus Award.

Inspired by his experience as a Rowan student visiting Bangladesh, Walker today is president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the non-profit Engineers Without Borders USA which partners with developing communities to design and build sustainable engineering projects.

The goal, Walker said, is to "build a better world, one community at a time."

Rising businesswoman

Rowan's College of Humanities and Social Sciences will present its first Medal of Excellence for Alumni Achievement to Commencement keynote speaker Ashley Abdullah.

Abdullah, a 2006 Rowan graduate with a Bachelor

He is also a founder of Housecall Doctors Medical Group, Inc., a home care network that provides on-site clinical services to more than 2,000 frail elderly in Southern California.

Rowan in 2015 redesigned its Commencement program from one main day to six ceremonies over four days, May 12-15, to better accommodate the University's growing student body and visiting families and friends.

For further information, please visit the Rowan Commencement home page.

## Categories

Academics

The Rohrer College of Business

College of Communication & Creative Arts

College of Education

Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering

College of Humanities & Social Sciences

College of Performing Arts

School of Osteopathic Medicine

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