PHILADELPHIA. March 7, 2007 – Philadelphia University President James P. Gallagher, Ph.D., who during 22 years has led the University’s transformation into a vibrant, interdisciplinary and forward-thinking institution, today announced his intention to retire. Dr. Gallagher will remain as president until a successor has been named.

“Jim Gallagher’s leadership, vision, dedication and commitment to this institution have been the springboard for many great things,” said Elizabeth H. Gemmill, chair of Philadelphia University’s Board of Trustees. “I believe that Philadelphia University has been blessed with one of the greatest university presidents of this generation.”

During Dr. Gallagher’s tenure, Philadelphia University has more than quadrupled its applications for admission, expanded its academic offerings, constructed state-of-the-art facilities, increased its endowment and raised its national and international profile as a quality institution of higher learning. One of the longest-serving college presidents in the country, Dr. Gallagher’s successful leadership has ensured the continued vitality of educational, social and cultural life on campus.

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“I am very proud of all that we have accomplished at Philadelphia University,” Dr. Gallagher said. “Just this past year, we opened The Kanbar Campus Center and the Athletic and Recreation Center – two magnificent buildings, and closed the most successful fundraising campaign in University history. It is the perfect time for me to allow a new leader to continue our mission as a thriving community focused on the intellectual and personal growth of our students.”

Since its start in 1884, Philadelphia University has evolved into a creative, diverse community whose primary mission is to provide motivated, talented students with professionally oriented, integrated programs combined with a strong foundation in the liberal arts. Philadelphia University has grown to include six schools – Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts, Science and Health – offering more than 50 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Remarkably, more than half of all students are majoring in programs that did not exist 15 years ago.

Before becoming president of Philadelphia University, Dr. Gallagher served as Pennsylvania Commissioner for Higher Education and chaired the Pennsylvania State Board of Education for nearly a decade. He also served in senior positions at other colleges and universities.

A Search Committee, led by University Trustee Donald Redlinger, former senior vice president of Human Resources and Communications for Honeywell International, Inc., and consisting of trustees, faculty, staff and students, will be appointed by Board Chair Elizabeth Gemmill. Dr. Gallagher will remain as president until a successor has been chosen.