WHYY President William J. Marrazzo to Address Philadelphia University Convocation Thursday, Aug. 23

The ceremony will welcome 773 students – the largest freshman class ever – to campus.

Philadelphia, August 2007 – William J. Marrazzo, president and chief executive officer of WHYY, Inc., the leading public broadcasting station serving the Delaware Valley, will address Philadelphia University’s 23rd Convocation for new students and their families on Thursday, Aug. 23 at 4 p.m. Marrazzo also will receive the University’s Centennial Medal Award.

“We are honored to have William Marrazzo as our keynote speaker,” said Philadelphia University President James P. Gallagher. “We are inspired by his civic leadership in the region and commitment to high-quality broadcast programming. I’m sure he will have compelling insights to share with our students as they transition into college life.”

As the first official gathering of incoming students, Convocation marks the start of the academic year for freshmen and their families. This year, Philadelphia University will welcome its largest freshman class ever – 773 students – as well as 78 transfer students.

At WHYY since 1997, Marrazzo is a leader in the movement to exploit new digital broadcast technologies to facilitate the region’s educational reform and economic development programs. He serves on several corporate and non-profit boards, including the Philadelphia Education Fund and the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.

Marrazzo also has received numerous awards and honors, including the honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters from Philadelphia University and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Arts Leadership and Service Award.

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In addition to Marrazzo, five outstanding educators nominated by incoming students also will receive Centennial Medals. Established in 1984 by the board of trustees to celebrate Philadelphia University’s 100th anniversary, the Centennial Medal Award honors prominent individuals in education, business, government, science and civil life who have made special contributions to students’ lives.

This year’s Centennial Medal recipients are Lesley Misko, English teacher at Boyertown (Pa.) Area Senior High School; Melissa Fitzpatrick, art teacher at Toms River (N.J.) High School North; Ben Lamberson, special education teacher at Lenape (N.J.) High School; Richard Sherman, athletic director at Shore Regional High School (N.J.); and Clayton Culp, math teacher at Broadneck High School (Md.).

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,200 full- and part-time students enrolled in more than 50 undergraduate and graduate programs. The University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts, and Science and Health.