

## **Robert Bonner Wins “40 Under 40” Award**

It’s often said that the Philadelphia region does a great job of educating tomorrow’s leaders; it’s just not very good at keeping them here.

Robert Bonner has spent most of his career trying to change that.

Thanks to his work in developing local business leaders and creating innovative university-industry partnerships, Bonner was recently named a “40 Under 40” award winner by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*. Several hundred nominations were submitted for this award, which honors 40 dynamic individuals under age 40 who are proven performers in their industries and communities.

Bonner – who until recently was Assistant Dean of the MBA and MS Programs at the Fox School of Business – believes that Philadelphia can retain more emerging leaders by creating stronger graduate programs in the region and through partnerships between area companies and area business schools.

To help do that, he has personally spearheaded a number of university-industry partnerships during his career, including the creation of Fox’s Career Trek program. This program exposes MBA students from around the world to Philadelphia-area firms in order to heighten their interest in seeking opportunities in the region.

Bonner also expanded Fox’s Enterprise Management Consulting (EMC) Practicum when he redesigned the School’s MBA curriculum and made the EMC a required experience of all students. The practicum provides experiential learning to MBA students while providing consulting services to local companies and regional not-for-profits such as the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, Chester County’s Natural Lands Trust and the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.

Another way he helped connect Fox graduate students and top companies was through the creation of the School’s first dedicated Graduate Career Management Center and Corporate Relations Office.

Through all of these initiatives, attracting great minds and training them to be effective leaders was only part of Bonner’s mission.

“Unless we can harness that talent and grow the talent base here in Philadelphia, we become only an exporter of talent to other regions,” he says. “If we keep these leaders in the Philadelphia area we all benefit. They grow our industries, invest in our city, buy houses, raise children and invest in our schools.”

While at Temple, Bonner helped dramatically increase the quality of entering MBA students. In the School’s full-time program, the average GMAT score of incoming students rose more than 100 points, putting Fox students among the top 14 percent of GMAT test takers in the world.

Under Bonner’s leadership the School’s MBA programs underwent a significant curricular change – increasing the rigor of Fox programs and making them more responsive to the needs of corporate recruiters.

All of his efforts paid off and helped raise the profile of the School and its MBA program. Today the program holds high rankings from numerous publications, including being in the top 10 for “Value for Money” in the U.S. for the fourth consecutive year by the *Financial Times* and this year being included in the top 50 in the nation by the *Economist*.

Several other “40 Under 40” winners this year have ties to the Fox School and Temple University. Howard Cutler (Temple MBA and JD, '95) is the Regional Vice President of Medical Finance for Aetna’s Mid-Atlantic region. He originally came to Temple to earn his law degree but soon realized he could simultaneously earn his MBA from the Fox School. The combination of degrees, he says, “has put me in a position to transition into some great opportunities and given me the flexibility to try new things at a relatively young age.”

Other “40 Under 40” winners with a Temple connection include John Cacciamani, who is Chief of Clinical Operation and Informatics for the Temple University Health System, and Sunah Park (Temple JD, '97), who is a Partner at Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP.