

Robert Burris to Deliver Drexel Commencement Address

SACRAMENTO – Robert Burris, Senior Vice President of the Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization (SACTO), will deliver the keynote address at Drexel University's fourth commencement in Sacramento on Saturday, June 21 at the Crocker Art Museum.

Both Burris and John Kehriotis, President and founder of JMK Investments, Inc., will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree and join approximately 120 graduating students at the Drexel University Sacramento ceremony at 7 p.m.

Drexel Provost Dr. Mark Greenberg will award the degrees at the scenic courtyard location at the Crocker. Several Sacramento graduates also traveled to Philadelphia last week to participate in Drexel's 127th Commencement ceremonies at Drexel's University City Campus.

Burris, who serves as Chairman of Drexel's Board of Advisors, received a B.A. in Business Economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and an M.B.A. in Business Administration with an emphasis in Market Analysis from the California State University, Sacramento.

"Bob Burris has been a wonderful friend, partner and advocate to Drexel University and has done a magnificent job as an ambassador for the Sacramento region," said Dr. Sandra Kirschenmann, Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director of Drexel University Sacramento. "We are thrilled that he will be providing our graduates with a meaningful and inspiring commencement message. We are delighted to present both Bob and John Kehriotis with the honorary degree of "Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa."

Burris is trained as an urban economist and is experienced in applied economics, economic development, and real estate market analysis. His SACTO responsibilities include external marketing and company recruitment for the six-county Sacramento Region.

"I am honored to receive this recognition from one of the country's finest private universities. Drexel University has been a tremendous addition to Sacramento and offers a wonderful, nurturing educational environment, while also mentoring the next generation of leaders in our region," Robert Burris said. "I'm excited about receiving this honorary degree and addressing this year's group of outstanding Drexel graduates."

Kehriotis possesses an extensive and diverse business background. He has more than 30 years of real estate experience and brings unique insight and perspective to all of his business dealings. He has a highly successful track record in real estate development, most notably the Embassy Suites, Sacramento Riverfront Promenade.

Kehriotis is a minority owner of the Sacramento Kings. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business from San Jose State University in 1972.

"What a humbling moment it was for me when I learned that Drexel University had chosen to bestow upon me an Honorary Degree," Kehriotis said. "Drexel University affords the Sacramento region with a top-notch educational facility, and is able to offer its students a truly unique opportunity by providing internships in hotel administration at Embassy Suites Hotel. I very much look forward to continuing and growing the partnership opportunities with Drexel University's Business Administration program."

All of Drexel's academic programs are focused at the heart of Greater Sacramento's growth and economic development

initiatives – health, entrepreneurial business, human resources and education.

Drexel – a top-ranked, national comprehensive university – currently offers students six master's, one doctorate and one post-baccalaureate program designed for working professionals in the fields of entrepreneurial business, human resource development, higher education and health care.

In September 2013, Drexel launched its first full-time undergraduate program in business for students who have finished at least the first two years of their undergraduate education. Drexel's renowned Co-op program is a central feature in the undergraduate program's experiential approach to teaching and learning.