

PhD Project Professor Dr. Jorge Pérez Appointed Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success at The University of Tennessee System

Montvale, NJ- The PhD Project, an award-winning program to increase diversity in management, announces that Project participant, **Dr. Jorge Pérez has been appointed Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success, at the University of Tennessee System. He earned a bachelor's degree in English, a master's degree in business administration, and a doctorate in management information systems—all from Florida State University.**

Dr. Pérez recently served as vice provost and professor of information systems at Kennesaw State University (KSU). Since 1998, he has held various faculty and administrative positions at KSU, including special assistant to the president for strategic planning. He was an American Council on Education Fellow in 2013-14.

“I’m thrilled and inspired to join the University of Tennessee, a system renowned for its student success-centered culture of innovation,” said Dr. Pérez. The University of Tennessee System is comprised of campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Martin, and a Health Science Center in Memphis.

"We are bursting with pride over Jorge’s new position and his incredible persistence and perseverance,” said Bernard J. Milano, President of The PhD Project and president of the KPMG Foundation, founder and lead funder of the program. “It is evidence that we are laying the groundwork for academics like Pérez to succeed by giving them a support network of like-minded scholars to collaborate with. In 2010, The PhD Project launched Project AHEAD (Achieving Higher Education Administration Diversity) to encourage tenured minority faculty to explore positions in administration and provide them with tools and resources including webinars and providing mentors."

The PhD Project, founded by the KPMG Foundation in 1994 and became a separate 501©(3) in 2005, recruits minority professionals from business into doctoral programs in all business disciplines. Since its inception, The PhD Project has been responsible for the increase in the number of minority business professors from 294 to 1,470. Further, 270 minorities are currently enrolled in doctoral programs, and will take a place at the front of the classroom over the next few years. The Project attacks the root cause of minority under-representation in corporate jobs: historically, very few minority college students study business as an entrée to a corporate career. Diversifying the faculty attracts more minorities to study business and better prepares all students to function in a diverse workforce.

The PhD Project has received ongoing support from its sponsoring companies, participating universities and organizations. The sponsors, who are founding organizations in addition to the [KPMG Foundation](#), are the [Graduate Management Admission Council](#) and [AACSB International](#). Other leading corporations, foundations and associations funding The Project

include: [AICPA Foundation](#), [DiversityInc](#), [Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP](#), [American Marketing Association](#), [Rockwell Collins](#), [John Deere Foundation](#), [California State University System](#), [Lincoln Financial Group](#), [Academy of Management](#), [American Accounting Association](#), [City University of New York System](#), [Aerotek](#), [NASBA](#), [Thrivent Financial](#), [American Express Foundation](#), [Fidelity Investments](#), [Bentley University](#), [LinkedIn](#) and over 300 [Participating Universities](#).

For more information on The PhD Project, visit: <http://www.phdproject.org> or contact Lisa King at 646-234-5080 or lisak@mediainpact.biz. Visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thehdproject>; Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ThePhDProject.