



THE PHD PROJECT SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

KPMG FOUNDATION AND THE PHD PROJECT: GIVING BACK



Bernie Milano, President of
the KPMG Foundation and
and The PhD Project

KPMG Foundation, created in 1968, actively embraces the concept of corporate social responsibility—not just giving, but giving back. In fiscal year 2008, KPMG Foundation gave \$8.1 million back to the community through academic grants and scholarships and support of academic research and conferences, diversity programs, students-as-citizen programs, and volunteerism. By promoting diverse role models, helping working professionals earn doctoral degrees, funding professorships in their areas of interest, and championing volunteerism at the corporate level, they are laying the groundwork for quality leadership and promoting sustainability of the best in their community.

It is because of their belief in giving back and channeling resources to business education that the KPMG Foundation created and administers The PhD Project Association. To date, KPMG Foundation has invested over \$11.8 million in The Project. They also initiated two other programs to address diversity issues and each is systemic in nature; the Minority Doctoral Scholarship Program and the Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Accreditation Grant Program.

“The absence of faculty of color, and therefore role models and mentors, was viewed as a major contributing factor to the shortage of business graduates of color,” said Bernard J. Milano, President of the KPMG Foundation and The PhD Project. “A diverse educational environment can expose our future professionals to new ideas and points of view, challenge their communication skills and prepare them for the cultural and intellectual complexity of the global marketplace. These are the reasons The PhD Project, Minority Doctoral Scholarship Program and the HBCU Accreditation Grant Program were created.”

The KPMG Foundation has also provided support and direction to a number of other initiatives which have greatly impacted business higher education. Their co-sponsorship of the new AICPA Accounting Doctoral Scholars program will help reverse the shortage of Ph.D. accounting faculty in U.S. colleges and universities. Their Matching Gift Program continues to focus on and enrich the academic experiences of the community of business students. KPMG’s National Audit Case Competition, sponsored by the Foundation and KPMG International’s Global Services Centre, gave students the opportunity to compete on simulated audit teams and receive feedback from audit partners and mentors. These cases are now available to all accounting faculty through the KPMG Faculty Portal.

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www.phdproject.org*