

Honorary Degree

Doctor of LawsEdward G. Rendell

As a two-term district attorney for Philadelphia County, a two-term mayor of the City of Philadelphia and as a two-term Governor of Pennsylvania, you have served with great distinction and produced extraordinary results. As the 45th Governor you invested strategically in the Commonwealth's economy, revitalized communities, greatly improved education, protected the environment, expanded health care for all children and provided affordable prescription drugs to older adults. As the 121st Mayor of Philadelphia, you achieved one of the most remarkable turnarounds in recent American urban history, restoring credibility and fiscal responsibility by eliminating a \$250 million deficit, creating innovative public/private partnerships, balancing the City's budget and creating five consecutive budget surpluses.

Every region needs its champion and you have been ours in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Small city investment has been a cornerstone of your administration. The lessons learned from recreating a lively and livable downtown Philadelphia are now being used to transform downtown districts all over the Commonwealth. The impact is already visible in Wilkes-Barre. Your downtown initiatives have created an enhanced quality of student life for all of the graduates who sit before you. Whether it is the downtown streetlights program, your \$5.2 million investment in our River Common, your administration's advocacy to make possible the sale of the Call Center to Wilkes to create our University Center on Main, or the ambitious theater project – all of these initiatives have worked together to create a resilient and energized downtown. Generous not only to Wilkes-Barre, your insight, instincts and unflagging loyalty have resulted in decisions for Northeastern Pennsylvania that will impact us positively for generations to come. Yours is a positive message that has enabled us as a region and a Commonwealth to look beyond our barriers and reach our fullest potential.

With enormous appreciation for your distinguished service to the Commonwealth, we celebrate your unwavering commitment to Pennsylvania's success and your vision that all of her citizens should be able to live in dignity, with optimism and good health. By the power vested in me by the Board of Trustees of Wilkes University, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I hereby confer upon you, Edward G. Rendell, the doctorate of laws, Honoris Causa, with all the rights and privileges thereto appertaining.