

Phoenix Award

The distinguished Phoenix Award is presented to an outstanding individual or group for extraordinary commitment to helping students and others rise above substantial obstacles and attain success in education and life.

2007 Phoenix Award Recipient

Willard Hackerman

In a 2006 interview, Willard Hackerman said, "I have spent my entire career witnessing how mathematical and scientific concepts can be translated into the building of beautiful and efficient environments, so it is gratifying to be part of the process of training minds to appreciate the beauty of math and science."

Mr. Hackerman joined Whiting-Turner Contracting directly out of college in 1938 and has never left the company. He has risen from his first position as a timekeeper to leading the company as its president and CEO. His steadfast dedication to his community and career is clearly evident in the causes to which he has generously given. One area closest to his heart is providing opportunities for high school students to go on to higher education in the fields of science and mathematics, which helps ensure there will be future engineers to continue his work.

Mr. Hackerman is a 1935 graduate of the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute (Poly), a Citywide high school that offers college-preparatory curricula with an emphasis on science, mathematics, and engineering. In 2005, he gave back to his *alma mater* by committing \$5 million to establish the Hackerman Polytechnic Scholarships at the Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering. The scholarships provide full, four-year tuition to graduates of the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute who have been admitted to the Hopkins program. It is anticipated that, over the next 25 years, the Hackerman Polytechnic Scholarships will enable three Poly students per year to attend Hopkins.

Mr. Hackerman graduated from the Johns Hopkins School of Engineering in 1938. For 70 years, he has demonstrated his commitment to the university through his generous donations and support to its students and faculty. He has served on the university's board of trustees and continues to be active as a trustee emeritus. He has also established the Hackerman Engineering Student Loan Fund and the Abel Wolman Professorship in Environmental Engineering.

A true visionary, Mr. Hackerman realizes that good scientists, engineers, and mathematicians are not born but taught. He has, therefore, provided generous support to Towson University, establishing the Willard Hackerman Academy of Mathematics and Science to attract more students into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) majors and to prepare educators to teach these disciplines in area schools.

Willard Hackerman is a generous benefactor to education and the sciences. He has ensured that gifted minds are encouraged and nourished for generations to come.

