

Denis P. O'Brien

Interim President, Drexel University



Denis P. O'Brien was named interim president of Drexel University on July 16, 2024. The 1987 MBA graduate of Drexel's Bennett S. LeBow College of Business has served on Drexel's Board of Trustees for 20 years and currently chairs its Buildings and Property Committee. A former executive of the Exelon Corporation, O'Brien has a record of transforming corporate strategy and structure to greatly enhance operating efficiency and financial performance. He inspires organizations with a commitment to employee and customer engagement, clear accountability, and high personal standards. He operates with a broad perspective and deep experience across all major functions, including operations, strategic planning, public policy and regulation, and finance, and brings hands-on experience leading due diligence and integration of complex acquisitions.

O'Brien also is a highly engaged and collaborative board member and civic leader who brings expertise in operational excellence, M&A evaluation and integration, risk management, regulatory compliance, and governance, and champions diversity and inclusion, innovation, and environmental stewardship.

As senior executive vice president of Exelon and CEO of Exelon Utilities, where he led the nation's largest family of electric and natural gas distribution companies with annual revenue of \$17 billion, O'Brien guided transformation of the company from two, independently managed utilities to an integrated, six-utility enterprise. He expanded return on equity for acquired companies 250 - 500 basis points by improving operating performance, financial discipline, and regulatory stewardship. He also led utility due diligence, was a key member of the merger approval team, and managed utility integration for high-profile mergers with Constellation and Pepco Holdings.

Previously, as executive vice president of Exelon and president & CEO of PECO Energy, a \$6 billion utility, O'Brien led one of the most profitable and highest-performing utilities in the nation for 10 years while enhancing the image and reputation of PECO among customers and key stakeholders.

Earlier in his career, O'Brien rapidly progressed through numerous positions from his start in engineering, taking on several special assignments related to organizational redesign and M&A, and managing construction and operations of electric and natural gas assets.

During his tenure as CEO of Exelon, O'Brien was the vice chair of BGE, PECO, ComEd, and Pepco Holdings. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Independence Health Group. He previously chaired the board of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and the Pennsylvania Business Roundtable, and served as a director at the Franklin Institute.

In addition to his MBA in finance from Drexel, he earned a Bachelor of Science in industrial engineering from Rutgers University. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the William Penn Award for business and community leadership, the Chester County Chamber Executive of the Year, and the Drexel University Business Leader of the Year.