

University of Delaware Honorary Degree

**STEPHEN M.
MOSKO**
DOCTOR OF HUMANE
LETTERS
honoris causa

Industrious and driven businessman, as one of seven children from modest beginnings, you worked your way through college, earning your bachelor's degree in communication from the University of Delaware in 1978. Intent on developing a career in television, you got your start in sales at a radio station in Baltimore. You soon shifted to the television industry and Baltimore's NBC-affiliate WMAR, where you rose to the position of sales manager before moving on to Philadelphia's WPHL-TV. As vice president and station manager at WPHL, you handled day-to-day operations and were involved in long-term strategic planning.

While at work in Philadelphia, you came to the attention of Sony Pictures Entertainment, which recruited you to be vice president of the western region for its Columbia TriStar Television Distribution, the syndication and cable network production and distribution organization that later became Sony Pictures Television.

Creative and strategic entertainment executive, by 2001, you had been named president, and by 2015 chairman, at Sony Pictures Television, where you were responsible for all television operations as well as cable and syndication products. You ushered Sony Pictures Television from a time when it had no new series in development to a point where it had close to 40 programs in the works.

During your time at the helm, Sony's television division gained a reputation for having a hand in everything from top-rated prime-time dramas, comedies and reality programs to daytime dramas, game shows, and even digital series. By all measures, the division was a success. Its programming received top honors in the industry, including Primetime and Daytime Emmys, Golden Globe Awards, WGA awards, Peabody Awards, AFI awards, ACE Eddie awards and many others. At one point, Sony's Television Division was responsible for bringing in fully 60 percent of the income earned by its parent company Sony Pictures Entertainment.

As head of the studio's international efforts, you directed more than 150 channel feeds available in 180 countries, reaching more than 1.3 billion cumulative households. You also oversaw more than 19 wholly-owned or joint venture production companies in 13 countries outside the U.S.

You left Sony in 2016 and have now teamed with Jeff Robinov, former head of Warner Bros. Motion Picture Group. Surely, you are a team that will achieve great things in the future.

Industry icon and dedicated board member, you were honored by your alma mater in 1995 with the UD Presidential Achievement Award. Many industry awards followed. In 2003, you were named to *Entertainment Weekly's* Power List, and in 2005, you were inducted into the Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame. The Caucus for Producers, Writers, and Directors named you Executive of the Year in 2014.

You have paid it forward as a chairman of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation and as a member of the executive committee for the Los Angeles Board of Governors of Paley Museum, the national board of Junior Achievement, the board of directors of Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, and numerous other organizations.

Harry S. Truman rose from a modest background to the presidency of the United States, so he knew a thing or two about determination. Among the oft-quoted sentiments of our 33rd president is this one: "America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination, and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand."

Steve Mosko, in your rise from ad salesman to entertainment studio chairman, you have exhibited those same characteristics of courage, imagination, and determination, and you continue to demonstrate those qualities as you move to the next chapter in your career.

Therefore, under the authority of the Board of Trustees of the University of Delaware, I have the pleasure and honor of conferring upon you, Steve Mosko, the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters *honoris causa* and do declare you entitled to all the rights, honors, and privileges to that degree appertaining throughout the world. In testimony thereof, I am pleased to present to you this diploma.

John R. Cochran
May 26, 2018