After becoming Drexel University’s 14th president in 2010, John Fry set out to transform Drexel into a private research university with a strong public purpose — an institution that harnesses its strengths in cooperative education, translational research, online education and entrepreneurship to serve students, its neighborhood, the city and nation.

Under Fry, Drexel has helped lead the continuous revitalization of West Philadelphia, spearheading the designation of this area as a federal Promise Zone, and initiating Schuylkill Yards, a 14-acre innovation district at 30th Street Station. In addition to leading Drexel, Fry served as chairman of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, concluding his tenure in October 2018.