FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PENN ADMITS EARLY DECISION CLASS OF 2019

PHILADELPHIA, PA – On Monday, December 15, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. EST, the University of Pennsylvania will welcome 1,316 admitted students to the Class of 2019 through Penn’s Early Decision program.

Penn’s admitted Early Decision cohort was selected from a pool of 5,489 applications, the largest in the University’s history. Early Decision applicants take the additional step of committing to matriculate if admitted. “The students who apply ED to Penn are remarkable in so many ways,” said Dean of Admissions Eric J. Furda C’87. “The admitted class reflects Penn’s commitment to create a dynamic learning community for all of our students.”

Penn’s Early Decision pool has grown by more than 50% since 2008, mirroring trends in college applications more generally, but also reflects Penn’s recruitment efforts. Director of Admissions Yvonne Romero Da Silva noted, “We have taken deliberate steps to ensure this generation of students and their families — especially those beyond Penn’s traditional recruitment paths — have all they need to make informed choices in the college search process.”

In 2008, President Amy Gutmann instituted an all-grant financial aid policy to increase access to students of the highest promise without regard to their families’ ability to pay. “Penn is proud of the gains achieved in enrolling undergraduates from lower income backgrounds over the past seven years,” said University Director of Financial Aid Joel Carstens. “With over 10,000 undergraduates, Penn is the largest school in the country to offer this type of innovative aid program. Penn’s aid program sends this strong message to families: achieving a quality education does not require student debt.”

The Early Decision cohort is comprised of outstanding scholars from 45 states and 46 countries. Just over forty percent of the admitted cohort identify as students of color. 124 admitted Early Decision students will be the first in their family to attend college, an increase of 29 percent over last year. Penn matched with 45 students through the QuestBridge College Match, a national program that aims to increase undergraduate enrollment of high-achieving, low-income students at top universities. Additionally, through a partnership with the Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP), seven students will join the 29 KIPP alumni already at Penn.

“My colleagues and I see firsthand the enthusiasm and thoughtfulness these students bring to the college search process, and we take their commitment to this institution very seriously,” Furda said. “Their potential for future impact is tremendous, and we are excited to see them make Penn their own next fall.”

The University of Pennsylvania enrolls a freshman class of 2,420 students across the College of Arts & Sciences, Penn Engineering, the Wharton School, and the School of Nursing. Applications for Regular Decision may be submitted via The Common Application by January 1, 2015.

America’s first university and a member of the Ivy League, the University of Pennsylvania is an inclusive community in Philadelphia where teaching and innovation extend across disciplines. Penn was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1740 to push the frontiers of knowledge and benefit society by integrating study in the liberal arts and sciences with opportunities for research and practical experience at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Penn is committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all undergraduates with grant-based financial aid, making this intellectually compelling integration of liberal and professional education accessible to talented students of all backgrounds and empowering them to make an impact on the world.

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