Erase Ethnic Walls In U.S., UPR Chief Tells Philly Grads

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University of Puerto Rico president Arturo Morales Carrion, speaking to graduates at Temple University in Philadelphia, called for a company against "ethnic walls" in America's bicentennial city.

In recent years Philadelphia's Puerto Rican population has grown substantially.

"Your challenge," Morales Carrion told the graduating class, "is to pull down walls, cultural, ethnic walls, in this city, in this state, in the country, not in order to destroy cultural and ethnic identity, but to do away with all the remnants of all forms of human degradation from the past."

Morales Carrion addressed an audience of 15,000 persons, including 3,000 graduates, after receiving an honorary doctor's degree from Temple University president Marvin Wachman.

The degree was awarded, a UPR announcement said, in recognition of Morales Carrion's achievements as historian and educator, and as "a symbol of the deep faith in education of the people of Puerto Rico."

Temple University, the second largest institution of higher learning in Philadelphia with close to 40,000 students, is widely known for its schools of education, medicine and law. It currently is training Spanish-speaking teachers to work with handicapped Puerto Rican children in the Philadelphia area.

Talks are now in progress between the UPR and Temple Law School towards the creation of an exchange program for professors and students.