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Horatio Alger Association To Honor Brooklyn-Born Exec
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WASHINGTON – The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans announces that Alan B. Miller, chairman and CEO of Universal Health Services Inc., will receive the 2010 Horatio Alger Award in recognition of his personal and professional success despite humble and challenging beginnings.

Miller will be formally inducted into the association when he accepts the Horatio Alger Award on April 9 in Washington, D.C. Current and past recipients of the award have overcome great adversity to achieve admirable accomplishments, to serve as examples of achieving the “American Dream,” and to offer countless hours and resources to help others in need.

“We are delighted to induct these individuals into the Horatio Alger Association and to honor their stories of success in the face of significant struggle,” said David L. Sokol, president and CEO of the Horatio Alger Association. “We believe that adversity builds character, and Alan Miller’s story is no exception.”

Miller was born in 1937 in Brooklyn, New York, where his father was a factory worker and his mother worked for a milliner. Beginning at age 13, Miller worked after school as a supermarket delivery boy, and delivered telegrams on the weekends.

After working throughout high school, Miller received a basketball scholarship to the University of Utah, and later transferred to the College of William and Mary, which also offered him a basketball scholarship.

While in route to a game in Pennsylvania, Miller was in a nearly fatal car accident. After one month in the hospital and six surgeries, Miller was unable to play competitive basketball. However, he returned to William and Mary and earned a degree in economics, and later an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania.

Miller began his career in the advertising industry and quickly became a rising star. In 1969 Miller was instrumental in creating American Medicorp, which built privately owned hospitals. After losing the company to a hostile takeover, Miller started over in business, creating Universal Health Services in 1978. He began with six employees and built his business to Fortune 500 status.

Now one of the nation’s largest healthcare corporations, Universal Health Services owns 150 acute care and psychiatric hospitals and other health facilities with nearly 40,000 employees.