



**HHL
Director Media
Relations**

Eva Echterhoff
T +49 341 9851-614
C +49 170 2973 880
media@hhl.de
www.hhl.de

2021-05-07

“Today’s society needs courageous people with strength of character”

Lutz Meschke, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management, has called on leaders to stand up for democracy and help those in need. The Deputy Chairman of Porsche AG appealed to the former HHL students to “take a clear stand against the populist enemies of democracy and to defend the values of our free world”. In his speech, which was broadcasted virtually today, Lutz Meschke told the alumni, to “take action to move the world in the direction where there is a bit more fairness and that bit better quality of life.”

Lutz Meschke had been asked to address the graduates by Hanns-Christian Ehret, President of HHL's Alumni Association. The network of former HHL students plays a big role at HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management. Many of the graduates now hold international management positions or are otherwise active in shaping their respective fields. The business school maintains close contact with them and promotes the exchange between past and present students, the former often serving as mentors and role models.

“The academic education at HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management follows the tradition of the honorable merchant. Conscious of this guiding principle, HHL alumni develop growth-oriented perspectives worldwide and align them with positive social and environmental impacts. In that process, we can rely on a strong network of graduates and role models like Lutz Meschke.”

(Hanns-Christian Ehret, President of the HHL Alumni Association)

More quotes from Lutz Meschke's address to HHL's alumni

*„Today’s society needs courageous people with strength of character
People who get stuck in and move things forward – whether it’s their company, the city or their country. People who speak up when necessary and who disagree when it matters.*



People who get involved and contribute. (...)

You are (...) called upon nowadays more than ever to take a clear stand against the populist enemies of democracy and to defend the values of our free world. So my advice to you is: The best leaders are not just focused on the key performance indicators, they are able to look far beyond their company and their family. They are able to see the bigger picture and their deficits in it.

(...) They take action to move the world in the direction where there is a bit more fairness and that bit better quality of life. (...)

There are so many business leaders who never speak publicly about political issues and I think that is a great critique. I ask you who will be the ones who to raise their voice against mismanagement and deficits? (...) If not you? (...)

It is like football: As a top performer you carry more responsibility than many others – and when times are rough you have to pull the weaker ones along with you or even build them up.

At the final whistle success only comes to those who have stuck together as a team. That's why it is right for you as Alumni to network and cultivate your contacts.

But don't forget – by working together you can achieve a lot for your fellow human beings, too. The more you cooperate as leadership pioneers the better the world you can shape."

HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management

HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management recently received an award for its optimum promotion of startups from Stifterverband for the fifth time in a row. For years, it has been HHL's core mission to create excellent framework conditions for founders in Germany and, particularly, at a regional level. In addition to a broad range of courses in the fields of startups, innovation and entrepreneurship, HHL also offers a vast number of open formats to promote entrepreneurial spirit in the city and the region. Since the 1990s, more than 300 startups have been born out of HHL creating more than 40,000 jobs. The ranks of successful companies founded with the help of HHL graduates include *About You*, *trivago*, *Delivery Hero*, *IONIQ Group*, *Spreadshirt*, *Mister Spex*, *betreut.de*, *futalis*, *die kartenmacherei*, *ELSTERKIND* as well as SpinLab – The HHL Accelerator.

HHL stands out for its excellent teaching, its clear research focus, its effective knowledge transfer into practice as well as its outstanding student services. The 2020 edition of the renowned Global Masters in Management Ranking awarded top places to the education offered at HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management both in Europe and worldwide (2nd place in Germany, 23rd place globally). HHL was the first private German business school to be accredited by AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) in 2004. The courses of study include a university-level, full and part-time Master in Management education in the form of M.Sc. and MBA programs, a doctoral program as well executive education courses.