

2017 Most Admired CEOs

Malik Majeed

PRWT Services Inc.



Malik Majeed has been with PRWT since 2007. In 2015, he became president, CEO and general counsel. Since becoming CEO, Majeed has been instrumental in shaping the company's strategic direction for its family of companies, which includes PRWT Services, U.S. Facilities Inc. and PRWT Services - Florida.

Years at current company: 10

Education: JD, Rutgers University School of Law; MBA, Rutgers Graduate School of Management and BA, Rutgers

Hobbies or extracurricular interests: Tinkering with computers.

Board Memberships: Secretary of the board of directors for PRWT and U.S. Facilities Inc. and the Urban League of Philadelphia.

What is the most pressing issue facing our region? Poverty. Philadelphia has one of the highest, if not the highest, rates of poverty in the United States. One of the major ways to fight poverty is through training and employment.

What factors most helped you get a head in your career and contributed to your success?

Education and diverse business background, i.e., coming from having been a security guard and computer operations support rep while in college to a commercial banker with an MBA, to later becoming a computer network consultant, attorney and COO. Also, my ability to listen and willingness to get my hands dirty helped.

What's the biggest risk you've ever taken? Did it work? What did you learn from it?

Restructuring the company in 2015 in order to be a more effective operation.

What one word best describes you? Energetic

Share one thing about yourself people would be surprised to learn: I grew up playing music (piano and guitar). It was one of the ways my mother tried to keep her kids occupied and out of trouble, having grown up in the inner city.

Who is a CEO you admire, and why? Kenneth C. Frazier, chairman and CEO of Merck & Co. Like me, Ken was born in the inner city, he and his siblings lost a parent at a young age, and was still able to obtain an education and rise to a position of prominence where he can make a positive impact on others' lives - doing something good for others while your company does well. Ken's leadership skills are unsurpassed. He has shown great courage then and continues to do so to this day.

What does leadership and being a leader mean to you? Being a leader means being the one who rallies the troops or gets others to do so. That means you have to understand another person's position. It also means taking a stand, even an unpopular one.