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MATT ROURKE/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

Comedian Bill Cosby appeared at Temple University's commencement in Philadelphia in 2011.

By Matt Rocheleau

Bill Cosby has resigned his three-decade-long appointment as a member of the board of trustees at his undergraduate alma mater Temple University, officials announced Monday.

"I have always been proud of my association with Temple University," Cosby said in a statement provided by the university. "I have always wanted to do what would be in the best interests of the university and its students. As a result, I have tendered my resignation from the Temple University Board of Trustees."

Numerous organizations, including the <u>University of Massachusetts Amherst</u>, <u>Berklee College of Music</u>, and other higher education institutions, have distanced themselves from Cosby amid accusations that he sexually assaulted more than a dozen women.

The entertainer had been a trustee since 1982 at Temple, located in his hometown of Philadelphia.

"The Board of Trustees accepts Dr. Cosby's resignation from the board and thanks him for his service to the university," said a statement from university spokesman Brandon Lausch.



In 2006, Cosby settled a lawsuit filed by a former Temple employee who alleged he drugged and fondled her at his suburban Philadelphia mansion. Cosby was represented by Patrick O'Connor, currently chairman of Temple's board of trustees.

In recent weeks, several women have come forward to say that Cosby drugged and sexually assaulted them years ago. Cosby has never been charged in connection with any of the allegations. Cosby's lawyer has called the allegations unsubstantiated.

Cosby, a long-time advocate of education, has donated millions to colleges around the country. But as many colleges struggle to better address sexual violence, some schools have reassessed their relationship with Cosby amid increasing outcry over the allegations against him.

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