

---

## Painting, stocking shelves celebrates CCRI president's inauguration

(Thu, Mar 22 07) - Contributed by SIBIELSKI, REBECCA

By REBECCA SIBIELSKI More than 125 students, faculty and staff from CCRI put down their books and pens Tuesday and picked up paint brushes and cans and boxes of food. Their community efforts are all part of a weeklong celebration of the inauguration of the college's fourth president, Ray M. Di Pasquale, which takes place tomorrow. Di Pasquale was on hand during Tuesday's outreach to nonprofit organizations within the communities surrounding the four CCRI campuses. Westbay Community Action in Warwick, The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Newport, The Community Food Bank of Providence, Channel One in Central Falls, and East Bay Community Action in Newport all received helping hands from CCRI students, faculty and staff. "I think people are excited. While students have been involved in the past, this event, Community Day, involves faculty and staff as well. This is a first for the college and we hope that it will become an annual event," said CCRI Director of Public Relations and assistant to the president Dennis Moore. With campuses in Warwick, Lincoln, Providence and Newport, Di Pasquale saw Community Service Day as an opportunity for the colleges to give back to the communities that support them and all work together. Dressed in a suit, Di Pasquale visited sites to tour facilities and personally thank the volunteers who were clad in green CCRI t-shirts. His inauguration will be held starting with a line of march at 2:30 p.m. at the Knight Campus Field House in Warwick. Chairman of the Board of Governors for Higher Education Frank Caprio will serve as the master of ceremonies. Following his visit to The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center, Di Pasquale stopped at East Bay Community Action where he read to the children participating in the Head Start program. "We are connecting with the community to let them know that we truly are a community's college. We also want them to have an opportunity to get to know President Di Pasquale," said Moore. Di Pasquale arrived at Westbay Community Action, which provides social services to low-income and elderly persons in the area Tuesday afternoon. A focus of the agency is a market that distributes donated food to families based on nutritional needs and family size. Donations come from Westbay's own fresh farm as well as families and businesses. CCRI volunteers spent the day restocking canned goods and other donated food items so that participants are able to shop there efficiently while also making storage room for an upcoming shipment of an estimated 20,000 pounds of food. The shipment is due in part by Ss. Rose and Clements Church in Warwick, which will deliver an expected 800 bags in response to Westbay's grocery wish list. The Rhode Island Job Lot and the R.I. Community Food Bank have also been responsible in supplying food to the market. Terrie Celentano, executive assistant for academic affairs, referred to the experience as "very humbling." Fellow staff member Maria Tamborelli said, "It's inspiring to see this all put together by someone with no time or compensation." Tamborelli was referring to market manager Kelly Chadronet. "Kelly is dynamic and successful in getting businesses to contribute," said part-time CCRI teacher and staff member Roberta Mournighan. Mournighan described her experience at Westbay as educational and eye-opening. "I live here, in Warwick, and I had no idea there was a farm. I didn't know that this place could use plastic grocery bags. They are desperate for bags," said Mournighan. Chadronet attributes a lot of the success of the market to the help she gets from others. One of her biggest supporters is Westbay's nutrition director, Larry Coughlin. "I couldn't do it without him," said Chadronet. Coughlin made it clear that neither of them could accomplish anything without the support from the community. "We can always use donations. People are hungry everyday. Not just holidays," said Coughlin. The theme of Community Day, "Changing Lives, Achieving Dreams" was certainly made visible to Westbay. "I hate to see these people go today. I really had fun with them," commented Chadronet. The community had come together to accomplish something important for everyone around them, he said. The students participating also thought the event was a success. "We found things that were unused and put them to good use," said Sarah Nichols. Her schoolmate, Frank Sullo, said: "We are going to leave here feeling better than when we came. It felt great to come together with the faculty and staff to do something positive and get to know each other better." Student Joseph Moore even took the day off work to volunteer. "It's always worth it when you give back," he said. Di Pasquale spoke highly of his visits throughout the day. "I feel like the college was able to give back. We were able to see the power from the students and employees to go out and help and impact the community." "It is not about one person. There are 43 years of people doing good things long before I got here. Today showcased the college and what good it can do for our state," he said. Di Pasquale was named CCRI interim president in January 2006 and was appointed president six months later. "Ray is a breath of fresh air," said Lela Morgan, interim vice president of academic affairs. "He has new ideas and is helping to focus on where we need to go. He's a great guy to work for."