

**Rhode Island Board of Governors  
For Higher Education**

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
TO NAME RAYMOND M. DI PASQUALE  
ACTING COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Di Pasquale will also continue as president of the Community College of Rhode Island;  
RIBGHE Chair Frank Caprio says the appointment will keep Di Pasquale in Rhode Island  
and save the higher education system over \$400,000.

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, DECEMBER 7, 2009: The Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education plans to name CCRI President Raymond M. Di Pasquale acting commissioner of higher education at its Board meeting later today, according to RIBGHE chair Frank Caprio. Di Pasquale will also continue as president of the Community College of Rhode Island, becoming the first individual to ever occupy these two offices simultaneously.

“Ray Di Pasquale is an outstanding, nationally recognized higher education administrator who is greatly admired and highly respected at the Community College of Rhode Island and throughout Rhode Island,” Chair Caprio said. “When he arrived at CCRI in 2006, the institution was embroiled in tumult and turmoil and was badly in need of leadership and direction. In three years, Ray has worked tirelessly to build a culture and a climate of trust and cooperation. He has led CCRI through its first-ever strategic planning process and ensured that this process was inclusive of all campus constituencies from day one. He has earned the confidence of the faculty, the administration and the students at CCRI and we are fortunate to be able to keep him in Rhode Island,” Chair Caprio said

***(Di Pasquale had been a finalist for the president’s position at Suffolk County Community College (SCCC) on Long Island, NY. He interviewed twice at SCCC, most recently on Wednesday, December 2nd.)***

“I have no doubt that Ray will also be an excellent acting commissioner of higher education,” Chair Caprio continued. “He has great knowledge and understanding of myriad higher education issues, not just those concerning the community college. He is quite familiar with and respected by the entire Rhode Island system. In addition, he will benefit from strong staff support at both CCRI and at the Office of Higher Education. The Board has every confidence in his ability to handle both roles with maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

“These economic times called for creative, out-of-the-box thinking on this issue. By naming Ray to both positions, we have allowed the state of Rhode Island to hang onto one of its most dedicated workers and one of its most effective advocates for public higher education. At the same time, this action will save the State over \$400,000 in salary and benefits as well as fees that we would have had to pay to conduct a national search for the both commissioner’s position and for a new president for the community college, had Ray left that position,” Chair Caprio said.

Di Pasquale is expected to begin his duties as acting commissioner of the Rhode Island public system of higher education shortly after the New Year. When he does, he will replace Steven J. Maurano who has served as interim commissioner since July 1, 2009 after former commissioner Jack R. Warner left to take the top higher education job in South Dakota. Maurano will return to his previous position as the system’s associate commissioner of external affairs.

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