



Ray Di Pasquale

Ray Di Pasquale began serving his first term as president of the Community College of Rhode Island on July 1, 2006, following his selection by the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education. In January 2010, Mr. Di Pasquale assumed a dual role when he was named commissioner of higher education for the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education, which became the Rhode Island Board of Education in January 2013. Mr. Di Pasquale concluded his term as commissioner in August 2013.

Since Mr. Di Pasquale arrived at CCRI, the college has enjoyed near-record enrollments and had its largest graduating class ever in May 2012. CCRI is the largest community college in New England, serving nearly 18,000 students each semester, and its noncredit arm trains more than 30,000 Rhode Islanders annually, making it an important cog in the state's workforce development efforts. Under Mr. Di Pasquale's direction, the college has added numerous programs and courses, instituted energy cost-saving projects, expanded career pathway programs, has been the recipient of numerous federal grants, and has focused on adult learners. He also spearheaded the college's first capital campaign, which raised more than \$5 million.

Prior to coming to Rhode Island, Mr. Di Pasquale was vice president for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs at the State University of New York's SUNY College at Brockport in Brockport, NY. He served in this capacity from 1998 to 2006. He also served in a number of leadership positions at Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) in Springfield, Mass., from 1979 to 1998. He began his career in higher education at Middlesex Community College, where he served from 1974 to 1979. Mr. Di Pasquale holds a master's degree from Northeastern University in Boston and a bachelor's degree from Arkansas Tech University.

His community and professional associations have included or presently include the following: leadership positions with the Task Force on the Education of Children and Youth in the Care of the Department of Children, Youth and Families; the Special Legislative Commission on Defense Economy Planning, the Governor's Workforce Board Executive Committee; chair of the Governor's Workforce Board Adult Education and Literacy Committee; the Governor's Workforce Board Youth Development Committee; the Governor's Workforce Board Career Pathways System Task Force; the Governor's PK-12 Council; the State Higher Education Executive Officers; the Rhode Island Campus Compact Executive Committee; the Met School Board; and he was a member of the Governor's Cabinet; the Rhode Island Economic Policy Council and the Governor's Economic Development Planning Committee; the Board of Directors of the New England College Council, the College Board Regional Community College Advisory Committee; the Board of Directors for the Newport Chamber of Commerce; the National Association of System Heads and is a Kent Hospital Incorporator. In March of

2013, Mr. Di Pasquale received the Eleanor M. McMahon Award for Lifetime Achievement from the New England Board of Higher Education.



Brenda Dann-Messier

Brenda Dann-Messier was nominated by President Obama as assistant secretary for vocational and adult education on July 14, 2009. On Oct. 5, 2009, she was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and began her official duties on Oct. 13, 2009. On May 6, 2013, the president also named her acting assistant secretary for postsecondary education.

As the first assistant secretary who is also an adult educator, Dann-Messier leads the Department's efforts in adult education and career and technical education, as well as efforts supporting community colleges and correctional education. She runs the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE), which oversees the administration of seven grant programs in these areas, totaling approximately \$1.7 billion annually. OCTAE's vision is that all youths and adult students (1) are ready for, have access to, and complete college and career pathways; (2) have effective teachers and leaders; and (3) have equitable access to high quality learning opportunities on demand.

As the head of the Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), Dann-Messier serves as the secretary's chief advisor on higher-education issues and administers more than 60 programs, totaling nearly \$2.5 billion annually, that are designed to provide financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in postsecondary institutions. OPE supports higher education programs through financial support to eligible institutions, recruits and prepares disadvantaged students for completion of college, promotes the study of foreign languages and international affairs, and supports international educational research and exchange activities. OPE runs the well-known Byrd, Fulbright, Javits and McNair programs and certifies all regional and national accreditation agencies, so they, in turn, may qualify institutions to receive federal financial aid and Pell grants.

In her role as assistant secretary, she has led extensive strategic planning and policy initiatives to craft a blueprint for reform in the U.S. career and technical education system and codified new legislative priorities for the reauthorization of the *Workforce Investment Act* in order to transform service delivery and build viable career pathways for low-skilled youths and adults. Dann-Messier has established collaborative partnerships with the private sector and other public agencies to increase resources for immigrant integration, correctional education, career pathways, and disconnected youths; and she has spearheaded a ground-breaking federal partnership with the Department of Energy to vastly expand the availability of open education resources through an innovative e-training platform. Dann-Messier has led OCTAE's portfolio investments in research, and high-quality technical assistance and professional development for state and local education providers to promote college and career readiness, teacher effectiveness, and postsecondary access and completion—including development of the *Adult College Completion Tool Kit* for states' use. Dann-Messier also has represented the Department in

numerous international conferences and high-level consultations in South America, Asia, and Europe.



Julian L. Alssid

Julian L. Alssid, is Chief Workforce Strategist with the College for America at Southern New Hampshire University. Julian is a nationally recognized expert in workforce development innovation and policy. He has over 20 years of experience working with decision makers who seek to grow the economy and create a pipeline of skilled talent. Prior to joining College for America, Julian founded the Workforce Strategy Center, where he advised over 20 states on workforce policy and established himself as a leader in promoting effective, practical solutions for implementing career pathways initiatives. Julian has also held senior positions in education and workforce development at the New York City Partnership and Chamber of Commerce (now the Partnership for New York City), LaGuardia Community College, and the Office of the Mayor of New York City.



Constance Howes

Constance A. Howes is Executive Vice President of Women's Health for Care New England Health System, the health system comprised of Women & Infants Hospital, Butler Hospital, Kent Hospital, Memorial Hospital and the VNA of Care New England. She recently stepped down after serving for 11 years as President and Chief Executive Officer of Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island, the primary teaching affiliate of The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University for obstetrics, gynecology and newborn pediatrics, with over 8400 births annually, as well as a number of specialized programs in women's medicine.

Since June, 2011, Ms. Howes has served as the chair of the Governor's Workforce Board, the primary workforce development policy-making body for the State of Rhode Island, with responsibility for developing policies and programs to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the State's workforce development system, increase the education and skill levels of Rhode Island workers, and address the workforce needs of Rhode Island employers. She also serves as chair of Innovation Providence, an affiliate of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce focused on developing the knowledge economy in Rhode Island. Ms. Howes was recently elected to the Board of Trustees of the American Hospital Association, the national policy and advocacy organization that represents and serves all types of hospitals, health care networks, and their patients and communities. She is a past member of the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board 1, and a past member and past Chair of the American Hospital Association Maternal Child Health Governing Council.

Ms. Howes is also a member of the Board of Directors of Roger Williams University School of Law, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce and the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, a member of Providence College President's Council, and the Rhode Island Commodores. She previously served on the NIH Advisory Committee on Women's Health Research and the executive group of CWISH, the Council of Women and Infants Specialty Hospitals.

Ms. Howes graduated magna cum laude from Kenyon College and received her J.D. degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. She is married to R. Kelly Sheridan, a lawyer in Providence, and they are the parents of two adult children.



Kyle J. Brenner

Kyle J. Brenner is the Director of Career and Technical Education at Worcester Technical High School and for the Worcester Public Schools. He has held this position for three years. Kyle was instrumental in the

transformation efforts at the school that led to the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon selection this year. Prior to serving in this position, Mr. Brenner was an instructor and Department Head for the Business Information Systems program at Worcester Technical High School. He previously worked in industry as a mid-level manager for Verizon. Earlier in his career, Mr. Brenner was a civil engineer working for firms in California and Massachusetts.

Mr. Brenner received a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Civil Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He earned a Masters of Science in Telecommunications from Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey and a Masters Degree in Occupational Education from Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts.



The Honorable Charles J. Fogarty

Charles J. Fogarty was appointed by Governor Lincoln D. Chafee as the 5th Director of the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training in January of 2011. He is responsible for leading a staff of 400 people and managing an annual budget of \$576 million.

The Department of Labor and Training is the workforce agency for Rhode Island and includes the Unemployment Insurance, Temporary Disability Insurance, and Workers' Compensation Insurance programs; the statewide netWORKri one-stop career centers and oversight of workforce regulation and safety issues.

The department serves over 250,000 people each year.

From 1999 to 2007, Mr. Fogarty served as Lieutenant Governor for the State of Rhode Island, where he chaired the Small Business Advocacy Council, the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council and the Emergency Management Advisory Council. Before being elected Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Fogarty served four terms in the Rhode Island State Senate and at times held the positions of Majority Whip and Senate President Pro Tempore. Prior to his appointment as Director of DLT, he was Director of Policy for the Providence-based government relations firm, The Mayforth Group, representing clients in Rhode Island and Washington, DC.

Since 2007, he has been on the faculty of Johnson & Wales University in Providence where he teaches the Leadership Studies course. Mr. Fogarty, a lifelong Rhode Islander, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Providence College and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Rhode Island.



Roger Francis

Roger is the Region Manager for CVS Caremark overseeing all aspects of the company's 63 retail pharmacies in Rhode Island including retail and pharmacy operations as well as recruiting and hiring. He started his career with CVS Caremark as a pharmacist after graduating from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. After two years on the bench working directly with patients, he was promoted as pharmacy supervisor overseeing 27 locations in the Detroit metro area. In 2006, Roger was once again promoted as director of pharmacy operations with responsibility over 65 pharmacy locations in California. In 2008, he continued expanding his knowledge of pharmacy health care operations and management responsibilities with assignments in Georgia, Florida and New England.