



Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

NEWS

Office of the Governor

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, State House, Providence, RI 02903

www.governor.ri.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, April 26, 2007

CONTACT: Jeff Neal
222-8290

GOVERNOR CARCIERI ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF JAMES A. DIPRETE FROM BOARD OF REGENTS

DiPrete Will Retire By The End of June

Governor Donald L. Carcieri today announced that James A. DiPrete, a member of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education since 1997 and its chairman since 1999, will retire by the end of June. DiPrete informed Governor Carcieri last week of his intention to retire.

“Throughout his long and distinguished career as an educator, Jim DiPrete’s first priority has been the students. He has been a tireless advocate on their behalf, and has worked to ensure that Rhode Island students receive a comprehensive and well-rounded education,” Governor Carcieri said.

“I have worked closely with Jim and the Board of Regents during my tenure as Governor as we have moved forward to improve student results throughout our state,” Governor Carcieri said. “I have asked a lot of Jim DiPrete over the past four years and he has always been there as we have developed and implemented critical reform measures. We have established new education standards, established a rigorous high school diploma system, created a statewide curriculum for English and Mathematics, and developed the PK-16 Council to create a seamless transition for students from elementary school through college.”

“I thank Jim for his service and wish him all the best in his much deserved retirement,” the Governor said. “All Rhode Islanders owe Jim DiPrete a debt of gratitude.”

--more--

In his letter to the Governor, DiPrete wrote: "It has been an honor to have served the youth and citizens of Rhode Island in an educational policy leadership capacity over the past ten years."

"During my tenure the Board of Regents has undertaken an ambitious reform movement that included the implementation of some of the broad policy statements promulgated by Rhode Island's education strategy and its All Kids Agenda. This was followed by Article 31, our own assessment and standards program, the secondary regulations, No Child Left Behind, our charter school program and trusteeship governance model, the NECAP testing program, the extended school day, new building regulations, the soon-to-be revised special education regulations and the Central Falls-URI Collaborative."

"All of these initiatives, together with the strengthened PK-16 Council programming which you have developed into a national model, have kept the Regents and the Commissioner in the forefront of educational innovation. The stage has been set, expectations established, guidance and leadership provided and now the hard work of implementing important and necessary reforms must continue."

DiPrete was appointed to the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education in 1997 and became chairman in 1999. His career in education began in 1960 as a Spanish teacher in Connecticut. In 1961, he became a teacher at Cranston High School East. He taught English at the University of Pisa in Italy on a Fulbright Fellowship in 1965 and 1966 and has chaired several New England Association of Schools and Colleges visiting committees throughout New England and Europe. He has also served as principal of many schools, including Coventry High School.

Last year, DiPrete received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). He was named Citizen of the Year by the Coventry Chamber of Commerce in 1986, Principal of the Year by the Rhode Island Association of Student Councils in 1993, and, in 1996, he was inducted into the Cranston Hall of Fame.

DiPrete has held various educational and civic leadership positions. He serves as chairman of NASBE's English as a Second Language Subcommittee, chairs the Academic and Student Affairs Committee for the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education and serves as the Interim Superintendent of Schools in West Warwick. He has also served as president of the Rhode Island Secondary Principals Association and the Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club. He also sat on the National Association of Student Councils Executive Board, in Reston, Virginia.

Under state law, the Governor appoints members of the Board of Regents, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and designates one of the board members as chairman. The chairman is the only board member who serves without a term limit.