

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Commissioner of Higher Education

The Position

The Commissioner of Higher Education is the chief executive officer of the Board of Education for matters pertaining to higher education. The Commissioner is also the chief administrative officer of the Office of Higher Education, and functions as the point of contact between the executive and legislative branches and the three institutions of higher learning. For additional information, refer to the legislative power and authority in R.I. Gen. Laws 16-59-6.

The Organization

The Board of Education was established through legislation on January 1, 2013, and is responsible for governing the state's public elementary and secondary education system and the postsecondary education system which includes three state institutions of higher education: the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island. Each higher education institution is headed by a president who is the chief administrative and executive officer of that institution.

The Board consists of eleven public members chosen by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board of Education is the chief policy-setting body overseeing K-20 education in Rhode Island. Through its designated powers and duties, the Board helps shape the course of public education to ensure that all of the state's students receive the best possible education. Pertaining to higher education, the Board adopts relevant policies for the public institutions of higher education, serves as the governance board for the institutions, fosters cooperation with the independent institutions of higher education, regulates the proprietary schools, and advances the cohesiveness and interdependency of the system of higher education.

As of this date, the Governor has submitted legislation to the General Assembly to expand the Board to 15 members, and calls for each Board member to also serve on one of two councils, a Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and a Council on Postsecondary Education, addressing specific governance and regulatory issues for the Pre K – 12 system and higher education system respectively. The Governor also called for the establishment of an Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner to support the Commissioner, the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Board in their work on higher education policy and governance. The successful candidate will work with the Board, the Governor's administration and the General Assembly to determine the most effective and efficient size and scope for this office.

For more details, including the position profile and a list of board members, visit the RIBGHE web site: www.ribghe.org.

Candidate Profile

The Board seeks a visionary leader with a track record of proven performance. The successful candidate must have a minimum of an earned doctorate from an accredited institution, and/or significant experience in higher education, preferably including senior administrative leadership experience at the systems level. They must also have a forward-looking vision for a public higher education system; be a person of high integrity; and should have excellent interpersonal, motivational, and communication skills. In addition, the next commissioner should have:

- Successful experience working with a governing board.
- Knowledge and experience in linking business, education, and government for the purposes of economic development and workforce training.
- Ability to serve as an articulate, forceful advocate for the system of public higher education to state and federal governmental agencies and the community at large.
- Ability to solve problems through consensus building.
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, and to closing achievement gaps for underrepresented populations.
- Commitment to engaging resources to promote the state's economic and social well-being through research, graduate education, policy development, public service, and continuing education.
- Successful record of promoting partnerships and building coalitions with other higher education institutions, public schools, the business community and organized labor.
- Knowledge of the use and implementation of technology to support academic and administrative applications.
- Demonstrated skills in resource development, financial management, and facilities development, including oversight of capital projects.
- Skill at team building, strategic planning, and enhancing program quality and institutional effectiveness through use of information and institutional research.
- A decision-making style that is decisive and collaborative, effective at labor relations in a collective bargaining environment, while empowering others.

Compensation and Benefits

Compensation for the position will be in the range of \$135,000 - \$175,000 plus an excellent comprehensive benefits package. The final salary for the successful candidate will be based on experience, qualifications and Board criteria.

Application Process

Candidates should submit a letter of application, resume, and the names and contact information for three current professional references. Applications will be accepted through March 31. Please submit materials to the following address:

Clark Greene
Office of Higher Education
Shepard Building
80 Washington Street
Providence, RI, 02903

Or submit materials via email to: cgreene@ribghe.org

If you have any questions, please contact Clark Greene at 401-456-6000.

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