

Board of Governors for Higher Education
Department of Higher Education
State of Connecticut



For Release: Wednesday, June 15, 2005

***Brian Flaherty, Former Legislative Leader,
Joins State Higher Education Board***

HARTFORD, June 15 — Brian J. Flaherty, former legislative leader and 8-term state representative, has been appointed to the Board of Governors for Higher Education, the state's coordinating agency for Connecticut colleges and universities.

Harry H. Penner, Jr., chairman of the Board, announced the appointment at a noon meeting of the Board of Governors for Higher Education today in Hartford.

Flaherty, of **Watertown**, was nominated to the Board by Governor M. Jodi Rell in March. His nomination was confirmed recently by the General Assembly as required by state statute. He replaces Alice V. Meyer who retired from the Board last month after 12 years of service.

At the same meeting, Board members confirmed the election of officers, with Penner, who lives in **Guilford**, re-named Board Chair, and Frank W. Ridley, of **Meriden**, re-named as the Board's vice-chair. Both posts are for two years.

Currently, Flaherty is Public Affairs Manager for the Greenwich-based Nestlé Waters North America (NWA) where he directs the company's government and legislative affairs program as well as community outreach. NWA is the nation's leading bottled water company, comprising well-known brands such as Poland Spring, Deer Park, Arrowhead, Ozarka, Calistoga and Zephyrhills brand spring waters, as well as Perrier and San Pellegrino sparkling waters.

Prior to joining NWA in April 2003, Flaherty served eight terms in the Connecticut House of Representatives, representing the 68th Assembly District of Watertown, Middlebury and Woodbury. He served nine years as the Deputy House Minority Leader, the second-ranking Republican in the House.

First elected to the state House in 1988 at the age of 23, he also served as a Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education and was a staunch advocate for higher education, helping steer millions of dollars to financial aid and tuition programs, and public campus rebuilding initiatives. Flaherty graduated from Holy Cross High School in Waterbury, and earned his bachelor's degree from Fairfield University. He and his wife Melanie reside in Watertown with their three children.

In addition to Flaherty, Penner and Ridley, other members of the Board of Governors are: William A. Bevacqua of Trumbull, Dorothea E. Brennan of Fairfield, James H. Gatling of Southington; Robert D. Lane of Madison; Jean E. Reynolds of Danbury, Albert B. Vertefeuille of Lebanon, and Patricia McCann Vissèpo of New Haven.

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