

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of Governors Elects New Officers

HARTFORD, May 16, 2007 — **Frank W. Ridley** of Meriden, and **Brian J. Flaherty** of Watertown, have been elected to head the Board of Governors for Higher Education, the State planning and policy-making agency for colleges and universities in Connecticut. Ridley will serve as Board chair and Flaherty will be vice-chair for two years effective immediately.

Ridley replaces Harry H. Penner, Jr. who has chaired the Board since 2003. Ridley has been on the Board since 2001 and has served as the Board's Vice-Chair for the last four years. He was named to his current term in 2005 by Governor M. Jodi Rell. Like Ridley, Flaherty is a gubernatorial appointment who has been on the Board since 2005. Both men were elected to their posts in a unanimous vote by the Board at a meeting today in Hartford.

Active in insurance, charity and classical musical circles, Ridley heads up his own management consulting firm having previously held various executive positions since 1977 with R.C. Knox and Company, Inc. He currently serves as president of the Friends of the Meriden Public Library among several other community organizations.

Flaherty is Director of Public Affairs for the Greenwich-based Nestlé Waters North America (NWN). Prior to joining NWN in April 2003, Flaherty served eight terms in the Connecticut House of Representatives, including nine years as the Deputy House Minority Leader, the second-ranking Republican in the House. Flaherty also held the post of Ranking Member of the Appropriations Higher Education Subcommittee, and was a staunch advocate for student financial aid programs and public campus re-building initiatives.

As the state planning agency for higher education, the Board of Governors works to improve student access, promote college readiness, strengthen accountability and cost-containment, and increase responsiveness to employer needs. Among its chief responsibilities, the Board licenses and accredits academic programs and institutions, reviews public system budget requests and establishes systemwide policies and guidelines. Seven members are appointed by the Governor and four by legislative leaders to four-year terms. In addition to Ridley, Flaherty and Penner, other members of the Board of Governors are: William Aniskovich of Branford; William A. Bevacqua of Trumbull, Dorothea E. Brennan of Fairfield; James H. Gatling of Southington; Ross H. Hollander of Bloomfield; Jean E. Reynolds of Danbury; Robert S. Robins, Stamford; and Albert B. Vertefeuille of Lebanon.

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