



State of Connecticut  
Department of Higher Education

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# News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## *Ridley & Flaherty Re-elected to Head State Higher Education Board*

Willimantic, May 20 — **Frank W. Ridley** of Meriden, and **Brian J. Flaherty** of Watertown have been re-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 more years effective immediately.

Ridley has chaired the Board since 2007, having previously served as vice-chair for four years. He was first appointed to the Board in 2001, and was named to a third term this spring 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 at Eastern Connecticut State University.

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 chairs the Greater Meriden Chamber of Commerce and belongs to several other community organizations.

Flaherty is Director of Public Affairs for the Greenwich-based Nestlé Waters North America (NWNA). Prior to joining NWNA 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 system wide policies and guidelines.

The Board of Governors has eleven members who serve four-year terms; seven are appointed by the Governor and four by legislative leaders. In addition to Ridley and Flaherty, members of the Board of Governors are: William Aniskovich of Branford; Dorothea E. Brennan of Fairfield; James H. Gatling of Southington; Jean M. LaVecchia of Killingworth; Jean E. Reynolds of Danbury; Robert S. Robins, Stamford; Albert B. Vertefeuille of Lebanon; Margaret J. Villani of Monroe; and Michael J. Werle of West Hartford.

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