

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



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Board of Governors Elects New Officers

HARTFORD, July 2 — **Harry H. Penner, Jr.**, of Guilford, and **Frank W. Ridley** of Meriden, 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. Penner will serve as Board chair and Ridley will be vice-chair for two years effective immediately.

Penner replaces Albert Vertefeuille of Lebanon who chaired the Board since 1999. Penner has been on the Board since 1998 and has served as Board Vice-Chair for the last two years. He was named to his current term this January by Governor John G. Rowland. Like Penner, Ridley is a gubernatorial appointment who has been on the Board since 2001.

A founder and supporter of new bioscience companies, Penner is president and chief executive officer of Nascent Bioscience, located in Guilford, and serves as the State's BioScience Advisor. Previously, he was president and chief executive officer of the Branford-based Neurogen Corporation and a senior executive with Novo Nordisk, a Danish pharmaceutical company.

Penner has been instrumental in promoting economic development by building up new technology-based companies in the state. For three years, he co-chaired CURE, Connecticut's BioScience Cluster, and led the Connecticut Technology Council. He also is a member of the Governor's Council on Economic Competitiveness. A strong proponent of stronger ties between academic and business, Penner also chaired the Board of Governors' Public Agenda Advisory Council in the late 1990's. He holds degrees from the University of Virginia (BA), Fordham University (JD) and New York University (LLM).

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 on the board of directors for the United Way Foundation of Central Connecticut among numerous other community organizations.

As the state planning agency for higher education, the Board of Governors 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. In addition to Penner and Ridley, members are: William A. Bevacqua, Trumbull; Dorothea E. Brennan, Fairfield; Leonard S. Cohen, West Hartford; Joan R. Kemler, West Hartford; Robert D. Lane, Killingworth; Dorothy B. Leib, New London; Alice V. Meyer, Easton; and Patricia McCann Vissepó, New Haven.

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