

Office of the President

President David M. Dooley

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Presidential History

The University's Leaders – Past and Present



David M. Dooley, 2009 – present

With more than 30 years of experience in public and private higher education, Dr. David M. Dooley became the University of Rhode Island's 11th president in July 2009. He has reshaped the University's strategic direction, creating a set of broadly defined goals critical to the University's evolution.



Robert L. Carothers, 1991 – 2009

During his 18-year tenure President Carothers made a series of progressive changes to the university's structure, infrastructure and curriculum. The University became known as a preeminent public institution for higher education, and a comprehensive branding initiative clearly defined the University's distinctiveness in the marketplace.



Edward D. "Ted" Eddy, 1983 – 1991

President Eddy, known as "Ted" to many, was successful in enhancing the University's image nationally and abroad during his tenure. He was instrumental in expanding the Graduate School of Oceanography and improving its programs and research initiatives.

Frank Newman, 1974 – 1983

President Frank Newman navigated the University through troubled times and reversed a tide of declining enrollment. He created the College of Human Science and Services, revamped the general education curriculum



to emphasize global perspectives, launched the research vessel Endeavor, and recognized the importance of higher education in the lives of older students.



Werner A. Baum, 1968 – 1973

Werner A. Baum had been the deputy administrator of the Environmental Science Services in the U. S. Department of Commerce before he was named as the University's seventh president.



Francis H. Horn, 1958 – 1967

The University's sixth president, Francis "Fran" Horn led the University as it transitioned from a small 'country' college into what would become an internationally known university.



Carl R. Woodward, 1941 – 1958

Carl Raymond Woodward came to the Rhode Island State College as president, and just one year later became president of The University of Rhode Island. President Woodward led the charge to grant the college with its university status.



Raymond George Bressler, 1931-1940

Raymond George Bressler was approached about the presidency at the Rhode Island State College in 1930. In April 1931, at the age of 43, he accepted the position, relieving then Interim President John Barlow.



Howard Edwards, 1906 – 1930

Howard Edwards was the University's longest-serving president. During his 24-year tenure, what was then the Rhode Island College of Agricultural and Mechanical Arts was renamed Rhode Island College.



Kenyon L. Butterfield, 1903 -1906

Before joining the Rhode Island College of Agricultural and Mechanical Arts, President Kenyon Butterfield had been an Instructor in Rural Sociology at the University of Michigan.



John Hosea Washburn, 1892-1902

John H. Washburn was appointed to be principal of the Rhode Island Agricultural School in 1889. The land for the college had been appropriated for Rhode Island with the passage of the Morrill Act of 1862. Washburn's first order of business was to wrest the appropriation of land-grant status from Brown University for the Rhode Island

Agricultural School to become the official land-grant institution in Rhode Island.

Returning to campus, #rhodytogether

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University Leadership

Administrative Officers

President

[Dr. David M. Dooley](#) became the 11th president of the University of Rhode Island in July 2009. Sixteen years as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Montana State University have well prepared this chemistry researcher to lead the University toward an

elevated global presence as a preeminent research institution. He continues his work in the chemistry lab, is a regular wherever students are, and is transforming the future of the University.



Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

[Dr. Donald H. DeHayes](#) came to the University in December 2007 from the University of Vermont, where he raised more than \$34 million in private funds as dean of The Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. That experience has transferred beautifully to URI, where he provides leadership, strategic financial management, planning, inspiration and innovation for the University's intellectual enterprise. One of Provost DeHayes' most important accomplishments at URI has been the development of a transformative [Academic Plan](#), which sets strategic direction and critical goals towards superlative learning and discovery at URI.



Vice President for Research and Economic Development

[Dr. Peter J. Snyder](#) joined the University of Rhode Island in March 2018. A distinguished professor and neuroscience researcher, Dr. Snyder serves as the University's chief research officer and as chair of the

board of the URI Research Foundation. He works closely with the provost and fellow members of the President's Leadership Team to ensure the integration of research, scholarship and creative work with other components of the University's academic mission.



Vice President for Administration and Finance

[Abigail Rider](#) arrived at URI in March 2017. Formerly assistant vice chancellor for planning and real estate at the University of California, Merced, she serves in a leadership role in the establishment of fiscal policy for the University and integrates business affairs functions to achieve a level of efficiency and effectiveness that supports the overall mission and goals of the University. Other areas and departments under her supervision are budget and financial planning, Controller's Office, W. Alton Jones Campus, Ryan Center and the Boss Arena.



Vice President for Student Affairs

[Dr. Kathy M. Collins](#) joined the University in July 2016. Before coming to URI, she was the director of residence education and housing services at Michigan State University. Dr. Collins supervises the office of Student Life/Dean of Students, Memorial Union and Student Activities, Counseling Center, Housing and Residential Life, University Bookstore, Dining and Retail Food

Services, Student Health Services, Campus Recreation, Special Programs in Talent Development and Conferences and Special Program Development and she serves as the primary spokesperson for the president on matters pertaining to the social and academic needs of students.



Board of Trustees

The University is governed by a 17 member [board of trustees](#). The board is a public body that appoints the president and is responsible for establishing performance goals for the University, its buildings, employees, property, and approving the budget.

Mission

The University of Rhode Island is the State's public learner-centered research university. We are a community joined in a common quest for knowledge. The University is committed to enriching the lives of its students through its land, sea, and urban grant traditions. URI is the only public institution in Rhode Island offering undergraduate, graduate, and professional students the distinctive educational opportunities of a major research university. Our undergraduate, graduate, and professional education, research, and outreach serve Rhode Island and beyond. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni are united in one common purpose: to learn and lead together. Embracing Rhode Island's heritage of independent thought, we value:

- Creativity and scholarship
- Diversity, fairness, and respect

- Engaged learning and civic involvement
- Intellectual and ethical leadership

Endorsed by the URI Faculty Senate on Oct. 20, 2005. Approved by the President Nov. 1, 2005. Approved by the Board of Governors for Higher Education on Jan. 23, 2006.

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