Naomi Thompson Appointed Vice President of CED

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Carnell Jones Jr.  
Director of Enrollment Services

In August following a national search, we welcomed Carnell Jones Jr. as director of Enrollment Services where he is overseeing registration, records, billing, and financial aid services for more than 16,000 full-time undergraduate and graduate students, as well as thousands of part-time students. Prior to joining the University of Rhode Island, Jones served as registrar for the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, where he managed enrollment, registration, grade reporting, veteran affairs, and related matters for the school’s population of about 10,000 students.

“This is a critical position that affects the services and support of our students faculty, and staff. I am confident that Dr. Jones’s 15 years of experience and strong focus on customer service will support our efforts to enhance our one-stop office,” said Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, Dean Libutti.

“URI is a major player in a major area and it’s a place where I am looking forward to applying my energy and skills and really rolling up my sleeves. I am very excited to join the University of Rhode Island,” Jones said.

Mary C. Sullivan  
Interim Dean of the College of Nursing

Mary C. Sullivan, Ph.D. ’94, internationally renowned for her research on premature infants’ development, joined the University’s leadership team in September as interim dean of the College of Nursing. She has served as the director of graduate education in the College of Nursing and is a respected instructor who has overseen the longest-running U.S. study of premature infants from birth into adulthood. She is also a research scientist at Women and Infants Hospital of Rhode Island and an adjunct professor of pediatrics at the Alpert Medical School at Brown University.

Mary is an accomplished nurse-scientist and scholar and a highly valued and respected member of the College and greater URI communities. I have no doubt that she will provide effective leadership and ensure that the College continues to move forward,” said Provost Donald H. DeHayes. DeHayes has asked Sullivan to explore innovations directions and opportunities that will advance the position of both URI and the College of Nursing.

“I am fortunate to be leading the College as it welcomes the most academically talented and diverse freshman class in its history,” Sullivan said. Given the critical importance of nurses in the role of health care reform and the College’s efforts to improve the health of patients in numerous settings, URI will remain a leader locally and globally.

Naomi R. Thompson  
Associate Vice President for Community, Equity, and Diversity

Following a national search, attorney Naomi R. Thompson became the University’s first associate vice president for Community, Equity, and Diversity. Thompson will lead the University’s efforts to integrate diversity, equity, and community into its core mission, vision, and strategy. Before joining URI, she was the associate director of the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity at Northeastern University, where she structured a framework to address important diversity management needs, developed innovative models and programs to drive an effective diversity strategy, and implemented comprehensive recruiting, training, and talent management initiatives to improve the quality and diversity of new hires.

As we’ve outlined in our transformational goals, building a community in which every member is welcomed, supported, and valued is essential to our identity and mission,” said President David M. Dooley. “I am confident that Ms. Thompson’s years of experience, organizational leadership, and passion for these issues will help us advance this core principal University-wide.

“I am humbled and honored to have this wonderful opportunity,” Thompson said before assuming her new role in August. “I am very excited by the University’s leadership, direction, and strategic plan. Even the evolution of this position itself demonstrates an institutional commitment to equity, diversity, and social justice. Now I look forward to getting to work.”