New England Board of Higher Education
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Locally and Regionally Engaged:
New England Colleges and Universities as Drivers of Innovation, Economic Growth and Community Well-Being

A New England Leadership Summit

Tuesday, April 3, 2012
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Speaker and Panelist Biographies

Peter Alfonso

Peter Alfonso assumed his current position as vice president for research and economic development at the University of Rhode Island in March 2007. He previously served as vice president for research at the University of North Dakota, associate vice president for research at the University of Tennessee, and as associate provost for research at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Among science advocacy positions, Alfonso is on the executive committee of the NASULGC Council on Research Policy and Graduate Education and the board of the EPSCoR/IDea Foundation.

Previous to research administrative positions, Alfonso was in residence at Indiana University Bloomington during the 1997-98 academic year, where as a Fellow of the American Council on Education, he worked with the president, chancellor, and vice president for research. From 1991 to 1999, he served as professor and head of the Department of Speech and Hearing Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and, from 1977 to 1991, as research scientist at the Haskins Laboratories in New Haven, Conn., and as a professor of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at the University of Connecticut.

Alfonso holds a doctorate in Speech Science and Experimental Phonetics from Purdue University. He has published more than 130 book chapters, articles and abstracts in speech acoustics, speech perception and speech physiology, particularly in the areas of speech motor control in normal and speech-disordered populations. He served as a 1990 Fulbright Research Scholar to The Netherlands, a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and a fellow of the American Council on Education.

David Angel

David P. Angel is the ninth president of Clark University. Embodying the Clark motto, “Challenge convention, change our world,” Angel is spearheading a number of initiatives related to advancing liberal education, promoting cutting-edge research and expanding community partnerships. Under his leadership, Clark has rethought its undergraduate liberal arts curriculum and introduced a program called LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice) that prepares students with the intellectual and practical experiences required to address complex challenges in a rapidly changing world.

As a pioneering researcher on industrial environmentalism and clean technologies, Angel has helped steer Clark’s many innovations in campus sustainability. Angel served as Clark provost from 2003 to 2010, overseeing all undergraduate and graduate academic programs, as well as admissions, student affairs, sponsored research, and university libraries. He joined the Clark faculty in September 1987 and holds an academic appointment as professor of geography. His background and training are in economic geography, focusing on issues of
industrial restructuring, technological change, and the environment.

Angel holds a bachelor’s degree from Cambridge University and a doctorate from UCLA.

**Douglas Banks**

Doug Banks is associate vice president for economic development for the five-campus University of Massachusetts System. In this position, he is responsible for promoting and developing strategic partnerships among the campuses and between state and federal government, business and industry, and other public and private institutions of higher education. In addition, he is program manager for the President’s Science & Technology Initiatives Fund, an intercampus grant program to strengthen the university’s R&D base and industry relationships.

He is the former publisher and editor of *Mass High Tech*, an information services company that includes a daily news web site, a biweekly print publication, e-newsletters and events that spotlight technology entrepreneurship, early-stage companies and emerging technologies in New England. In that role, he launched multiple new web sites and industry-specific newsletters. Prior to joining *Mass High Tech*, he was a writer and editor at the *Boston Business Journal* and at *Fast Company* magazine. He has also taught at Emerson College, Boston University, Endicott College and the University of Pittsburgh, and has been a guest lecturer at several other universities. He is a board member of the MIT Enterprise Forum of Cambridge, where he chairs the Innovation Series committee.

Banks holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a master’s of fine arts in nonfiction writing from the University of Pittsburgh.

**Abigail Barrow**

Abigail Barrow is the founding director of the Massachusetts Technology Transfer Center (MTTC), where she is responsible for overall management of the MTTC and development of its programs. The goal of the MTTC is to support technology transfer activities from public and private research institutions to companies in Massachusetts through a variety of programs that assist faculty, researchers and students who have commercially promising inventions.

Prior to joining the MTTC, Barrow served as managing director of William J. von Liebig Center at the University of California San Diego (UCSD). The von Liebig Center was created in 2001 to support the commercialization of research being performed in the UCSD Jacobs School of Engineering. Barrow worked in a variety of roles at UCSD CONNECT from 1990 to 2001. At CONNECT, she developed and expanded many of its programs to support early-stage company formation and technology commercialization.

Barrow is on the board of the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) and the scientific advisory board of Norway’s Simula Research Laboratory.

Barrow a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and a doctorate in science studies from the University of Edinburgh.

**Kip Bergstrom**

Kip Bergstrom is the deputy commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, with a portfolio that includes the development of the innovation economy, statewide branding and marketing, as well as the arts and culture, historic preservation and tourism functions.

He has 30 years of experience as a strategist, business executive and economic development professional. From 2008 to 2011, he was executive director of the Stamford Urban Redevelopment Commission, the development agency for the City of Stamford. He also coordinated *Reinventing*
Stamford, a civic conversation and strategy, enabling Stamford citizens to take a role in their own destiny. Earlier in his career, he was Stamford’s first economic development director.

From 1998 to 2008, he was the executive director of the Rhode Island Policy Council, a private/public partnership which included senior leaders of business, labor, government and higher education. In that position, he developed an economic strategy for Rhode Island, positioning it as part of the tri-state Boston metro economy. He also launched initiatives to improve Rhode Island’s business climate and innovation capacity, including a complete overhaul and expansion of Rhode Island’s system of adult education, as well as a number of initiatives to increase Rhode Island’s supply of technical talent, and to leverage the research enterprise of the state’s public and private universities.

He holds master’s degrees from the Kennedy School of Government and the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University, where he was the first student to specialize in economic development.

Gregory Bialecki

Greg Bialecki is Massachusetts Secretary of Housing and Economic Development, where he oversees the Commonwealth’s agencies for business development, housing & community development and consumer affairs & business regulations agencies.

As the chief economic development and housing advisor and cabinet member, Bialecki is responsible for helping achieve the governor’s top priorities, including strengthening and accelerating economic recovery by supporting job creation in every region of the state.

Throughout the governor’s second term, Bialecki’s agenda will focus on supporting and expanding the Commonwealth’s nation-leading innovation economy; helping small businesses grow by improving their access to capital and advice and by addressing their rising health care costs; and providing the housing opportunities that help build thriving, sustainable communities.

Before joining the administration, Bialecki had a 20-year career as a real estate development and environmental lawyer at the law firms of Hill & Barlow and DLA Piper Rudnick, where his work focused on major urban redevelopment projects in Greater Boston.

Barry Bluestone

Barry Bluestone is the Stearns Trustee Professor of Political Economy, the founding director of the Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy (CURP), and dean of the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University. The center is a “think and do tank” devoted to research and policy in housing, workforce development, local economic development, manufacturing and transportation. The public policy school has been designed to closely link Northeastern with the broader community.


Before coming to Northeastern in 1999, Bluestone taught political economy for more than 25 years at Boston College and the University of Massachusetts Boston. While on leave from UMass in 1995, he was special policy advisor to House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, working on such issues as the federal minimum wage, the Earned Income Tax Credit, labor law reform and fair trade.

He is a founding board member of the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. and a member of the Scientific Committee of the International Center for Social Studies based in Rome, Italy.
He holds bachelor’s, master’s and a doctorate in economics from the University of Michigan.

**John Bramley**

John Bramley is interim president of the University of Vermont and a longstanding member of the UVM faculty.

He was appointed chair of UVM’s department chair of Animal Sciences in 1990, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in 1999, and provost and senior vice president of the university in 2001. In 2006, he also served as acting president during President Daniel Mark Fogel’s illness.

From 2007 to 2011, Bramley was president and CEO of the Windham Foundation, the largest private foundation registered in Vermont. In recognition of his service, the Windham Foundation has created the A. John Bramley Lecture Series to focus on preserving Vermont’s rural communities.

Before joining UVM, Bramley was a research scientist at the National Institute for Research in Dairying in Shinfield, U.K., becoming an internationally recognized authority on bovine mastitis. He was the recipient of the George Fleming Award of the *British Veterinary Journal* and twice was a recipient of the Peter Bridge Award of the British Cattle Veterinary Association. In 1985, he moved to the Institute for Animal Health in Compton, U.K., where he led the Division of Environmental Science.

Bramley was born and educated in the United Kingdom. He holds a bachelor’s degree in microbiology from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and a doctorate in veterinary microbiology from the University of Reading.

**Lynn E. Browne**

Lynn E. Browne is an economist specializing in monetary policy and regulatory matters, as well as regional economic development.

Until May 2011, Browne was executive vice president and economic advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, where she was responsible for the bank’s regional and community outreach, public information and employee communications.

Browne joined the bank in 1975 as an economist specializing in issues affecting New England. Over the years, she assumed increasing management responsibilities while continuing to produce research on such topics as the reinvention of the New England economy, the banking and real estate crisis of the early 1990s and the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s. Browne was the bank’s director of research from 1993 to 2001 and oversaw the bank’s scholarly research and monetary policy analysis. She led a number of special projects in recent years, including efforts to prevent foreclosures and an interdisciplinary research and outreach effort to revitalize one of the region’s former manufacturing centers.

Browne is currently working on energy-related issues and on her website (www.amorevitaleconomy.com), that examines the implications of the decline in U.S. manufacturing employment.

Browne holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from Canada’s University of Western Ontario (Canada) and a doctorate in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
Dan W. Butin

Dan W. Butin is an associate professor and founding dean of the school of education at Merrimack College and the executive director of Merrimack’s Center for Engaged Democracy.

Butin is the author and editor of more than 70 academic publications, including the books Service-Learning in Theory and Practice: The Future of Community Engagement in Higher Education (2010), which won the 2010 Critics Choice Book Award of the American Educational Studies Association, Service-Learning and Social Justice Education (2008), Teaching Social Foundations of Education (2005), and, most recently with Scott Seider, The Engaged Campus: Majors and Minors as the New Community Engagement (2012).

Butin’s research focuses on issues of educator preparation and policy, and community engagement. Prior to working in higher education, he was a middle school math and science teacher and the chief financial officer of Teach For America.

Butin holds a bachelor’s degree in management science from MIT, a master’s in liberal education from St. John’s College in New Mexico, and a doctorate in the social foundations of education from the University of Virginia.

Robert L. Caret

Robert L. Caret was named president of the five-campus, 68,000-student University of Massachusetts System in January 2011.

Ranked as the 19th best university in the world in the Times of London’s 2011 World Reputation Rankings, UMass was established in 1863 and consists of the flagship campus in Amherst, along with campuses in Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell and Worcester. The Worcester campus is the home of the Commonwealth’s only public academic medical center. The state’s new public law school is based at UMass Dartmouth.

The university has an operating budget of $2.8 billion and graduates more than 13,000 students a year. UMass research expenditures exceed $500 million, and the university has become a national leader in generating licensing income.

From 2003 to 2011, Caret was president of Towson University, where he also served as a faculty member, dean, executive vice president and provost during his more than 25-year tenure at the university. Between 1995 and 2003, he was president of San Jose State University, where he is credited with he championed a joint city/university effort to build the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in San Jose.

Caret holds a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and mathematics from Suffolk University and a doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of New Hampshire.

Kjell Christophersen

Kjell Christophersen is co-founder, senior economist and president of EMSI, with more than 35 years of international experience as an economic analyst and modeler in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean and the U.S.

His clients include USAID, the World Bank, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, FAO and several private enterprises in the U.S. He has served as team leader on many assignments to carry out activities such as economic modeling, project appraisal, assessments, planning, design and evaluation, feasibility and recurrent cost studies, and training in economic and financial analysis.

Christophersen has produced modeling and economic analysis for higher education institutions in the U.S., since EMSI was founded in 2000.

He holds a doctorate in agricultural and natural resource economics from Washington State University.
Susan Connery is director of the Feinstein Community Service Center at Johnson & Wales University’s Providence Campus. She has a commitment to improve the quality of life of Rhode Island and a demonstrated capacity for leadership and a history of volunteerism and community activities.

For the past 19 years, as center director, she has helped develop programs to provide community service and service-learning opportunities for thousands of undergraduate and graduate Johnson & Wales students, many of whom have continued to be involved in service in significant ways after graduation. Connery and the staff have worked to establish award-winning innovative collaborations between the university and Greater Providence nonprofits and local schools.

The Providence Campus of Johnson & Wales University has been recognized by the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Connery received the first Senator John Chafee Public and Community Service Award, was a Rhode Island Foundation Fellow and serves on the R.I. Governor’s Commission Serve Rhode Island.

Connery holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Stonehill College and a master’s in pastoral ministry from Seattle University in Washington state.

Phil Conroy is the 18th president of Vermont Technical College.

One of the five Vermont State Colleges, Vermont Tech serves students at its two residential campuses in Williston and Randolph Center, and at nine smaller campuses throughout the state. Vermont’s only public institution of higher learning whose mission is applied education, Vermont Tech offers bachelor’s degrees and associate degrees in agriculture, nursing and allied health, applied science and engineering technology, sustainable practices and business management.

Conroy joined Vermont Tech from Mount Ida College in Newton, Mass., where he was vice president of enrollment management and marketing, responsible for admissions, financial aid, marketing, publications, the web site, public relations, and retention-related activities.

Prior to Mount Ida, Conroy served as director of development for the College of Food and Natural Resources at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and director of development and founding executive director of the Bridgewater State University Foundation, where he also served as a faculty member, financial aid counselor and alumni relations director.

He has more than 30 years of teaching and management experience in higher education, including resource development, endowment management, volunteer and constituent management, strategic enrollment management, financial aid, integrated marketing, international and multicultural education, transition to college and the first year of college. He holds a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) designation from the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Conroy holds a bachelor’s degree in education from Bridgewater State University, master’s from Rhode Island College, and a doctorate from Nova Southeastern University.
Mark Delisle

Mark Delisle is state director of the Maine Small Business Development Centers. Delisle has extensive experience as a businesses owner, most recently as an independent retailer of fine art supplies and picture framing in Bath from 2002 to 2007. He also worked in Maine from 1999 to 2001 as an independent consultant in Internet marketing, selling fine art in various media from auction sites to traditional retail sites, in partnership with a New York gallery.

He has been a senior consultant for a multinational technology consulting company specializing in web development and network services. For 11 years, he held various positions, including director, in the Information Technology division at Hannaford Bros. Co. in Scarborough, Maine. His technology career also includes management of multimedia learning and product systems, desktop technologies and information center supervising networking activities.

He serves on the national accreditation committee of the Association of Small Business Development Centers.

Delisle holds a bachelor’s degree in materials engineering and a master’s in business administration from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Evan Dobelle

Evan Dobelle appointment in December 2007 as the 19th president of Westfield State College returned him to his Western Massachusetts roots. A native of Pittsfield, Mass., he was elected mayor of that city in 1973. Prior to going to Westfield State, he was president of the New England Board of Higher Education, working to develop the “Creative Economy” of the region.

His career includes presidencies of four quite different higher education institutions: the University of Hawaii, Trinity College, City College of San Francisco, and Middlesex Community College of Massachusetts. His early professional experience in Massachusetts includes serving as executive assistant and head of the Boston Office to then-U.S. Sen. Edward Brooke. He was also Massachusetts commissioner of environmental management under former Gov. Michael Dukakis, and personal secretary to former Gov. John A. Volpe. President Jimmy Carter appointed him as U.S. chief of protocol, at the level of assistant secretary of state, and with the rank of ambassador.

Dobelle holds bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in educational administration from the University of Massachusetts, and a master’s in public administration from Harvard University.

Katherine Eneguess

Katharine Eneguess has been president of White Mountains Community College in Berlin, N.H., since 2006.

Eneguess joined the Community College System of New Hampshire in 2003 as interim president of the Berlin/Laconia regional college. Before that, she operated her own organizational and rural community development consulting firm called Cloveridge Consultants. For the prior 18 years, she was vice president of the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire and functioned as lead policy analyst for legislative, regulatory and government affairs issues, specifically working on education, human resource, community development and rural policy.

She currently serves as chair of the New Hampshire Women in Higher Education Leadership Network and vice chair and trustee of Northern Forest Center. She is on the board of several other regional groups including: the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests; the New England Association of Schools and Colleges; the American Association of Community Colleges Community Colleges Workforce Advisory Council; the Rural Community College Alliance Board, the Canadian/American Alliance of Rural Colleges; and the Community Development Advisory Council for the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.
She holds a bachelor’s degree from Plymouth State College and a master’s degree from Johnson State College.

**Paul W. Ferguson**

Paul W. Ferguson became the 19th president of the University of Maine in July 2011.

A Southern California native, Ferguson is a health scientist with a 30-year record as an award-winning professor in the fields of toxicology and public health. Since 1993, Ferguson has progressed through academic administration, initially serving as vice provost and dean of graduate studies and research at the University of Louisiana, Monroe, the moving to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he was vice president for research and graduate studies. Prior to joining the University of Maine, Ferguson was at the Edwardsville campus of Southern Illinois University, where he was provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Ferguson holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Whittier College and a doctorate in pharmacology and toxicology from the University of California, Davis.

**Mark Galvin**

Mark Galvin is managing director of the New Hampshire Innovation Commercialization Center (NH-ICC).

He has more than 28 years of experience in the software, telecommunications and networking industries. For 20 years prior to founding the NH-ICC, he was president and CEO of multiple high-growth startup companies based in New Hampshire. He founded and was president and CEO of PRI in Salem (acquired by Xircom in 1995), RAScom, Inc. of Salem, (acquired by Excel Switching in 1999), Cedar Point Communications (acquired by GENBAND Holdings in 2011) and Whaleback Systems (currently operating in Portsmouth). PRI, RAScom and Cedar Point were all recognized by Inc. and Entrepreneur Magazine as among the 100 fastest-growing private companies in the U.S.

Galvin excels in equity-based fundraising, team-building, rapid growth business management, system architecture, matching technologies to emerging business needs and building and motivating channels to market.

He is an adjunct faculty member at the UNH Whittemore School of Business and Economics and serves on boards for Unified Office, Innovacene and Regaalo.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in math and computer science from McGill University.

**Ross Gittell**

Ross Gittell is chancellor of the Community College System of New Hampshire.

Prior to becoming chancellor in February 2012, Gittell was James R. Carter Professor at the University of New Hampshire’s Whittemore School of Business and Economics.

He is the author of four books and more than 100 academic articles. Gittell is vice president and forecast manager at the New England Economic Project. He is also on the boards of the Exeter Trust Co., Exeter Hospital and the Foundation for Healthy Communities.

Gittell holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Chicago, a master’s in business administration from the University of California at Berkeley, and a doctorate from Harvard University.
Paul S. Grogan

Paul S. Grogan became president and CEO of The Boston Foundation, one of the national’s oldest and largest community foundations, in July 2001. With assets of more than $850 million, the foundation distributed grants of more than $75 million to nonprofit organizations throughout the Greater Boston community in 2011.

Grogan has boosted the foundation’s fundraising and streamlined operations while launching high-impact initiatives in education, youth violence prevention, community development, health care and the arts. Under his leadership, the foundation became an influential convener on issues facing the City of Boston and the region.

From 1999 to 2001, Grogan was vice president for government, community and public affairs at Harvard. He spearheaded unprecedented Harvard commitments to the community, including $21 million for affordable housing and $5 million for the Harvard After-School Initiative. His work transforming the university’s once-poor relationship with the City of Boston paved the way for Harvard to double its property holdings in the city’s Allston neighborhood.

While at Harvard, Grogan created “CEOs for Cities,” a national organization of big-city mayors, business leaders, university presidents and foundation executives, which holds semi-annual conferences and publishes research on urban economies.

From 1986 through 1998, he was president and CEO of the nonprofit Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), the nation’s largest community development intermediary. Under his leadership, LISC’s successes included creation of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit and strengthening of the Community Reinvestment Act.

Grogan’s served under Boston mayors Kevin H. White and Raymond L. Flynn. He headed Boston’s neighborhood revitalization efforts in the early 1980s, including the Boston Housing Partnership and the Boston Compact, a partnership between the city’s corporate community and public school system.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in American history from Williams College and a master’s in administration from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Matthew Hartley

Matthew Hartley is an associate professor member at the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate School of Education and chair of the Higher Education Division.

His research and writing focus on academic governance and he is especially interested in exploring how academic communities define their educational and civic purposes.

Hartley recently completed a project with the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, that explored partnerships between universities, schools and civil society organizations aimed at promoting Education for Democratic Citizenship.


He holds a bachelor’s degree in art history from Colby College and a master’s and doctorate from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education.
Mark W. Huddleston

Mark W. Huddleston became the 19th president of the University of New Hampshire in July 2007. With three decades of experience as a faculty member, dean and senior administrator, Huddleston has been a strong advocate for increasing higher education affordability and accessibility, rethinking much of what we do to protect our core missions, and ensuring that higher education remains vital and financially sustainable in the 21st century.

In February 2010, he presented a 10-year strategic plan for UNH, the result of an intensive collaboration between faculty, students, staff, alumni and the university’s broader communities. Emphasizing innovation and entrepreneurship, the plan is helping to guide the university’s response to a historic state budget cut passed by the 2011 New Hampshire Legislature.

He began his academic career at SUNY-Buffalo in 1977 as an assistant professor of political science. In 1980, he joined the University of Delaware, where he served for the next 24 years, including as chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations and associate provost for international programs. In 2001, he was named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, overseeing 45 academic departments and centers with nearly 900 full-time faculty and staff, and serving in that capacity until he was named president of Ohio Wesleyan University in 2004.

An author of numerous books and articles, he has been a consultant for the U.S. government and international organizations. He also served as an adviser in Bosnia on rebuilding financial and administrative infrastructures after the Dayton accords.

Huddleston holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from the State University of New York-Buffalo, and both a master’s and doctorate in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Raised in Syracuse, N.Y., he was the first member of his family ever to attend college.

Saul Kaplan

Saul Kaplan is the founder and chief catalyst of the Business Innovation Factory (BIF).

Kaplan started BIF in 2005 with a mission to enable collaborative innovation. The nonprofit is creating a real-world laboratory for innovators to explore and test new business models and system-level solutions in areas of high social importance including health care, education, entrepreneurship and energy independence.

Prior to focusing on business-model and system-level innovation at BIF, Kaplan was executive director of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation and served as executive counselor to the governor on economic and community development.

Kaplan created Rhode Island’s unique innovation @ scale economic development strategy aimed at increasing the state’s capacity to grow and support an innovation economy, including an effort to turn the state’s compact geography and close-knit public and private sector networks into a competitive advantage.

Prior to his state leadership role in economic development, Kaplan was a senior strategy partner in Accenture’s Health & Life-Science practice and worked broadly throughout the pharmaceutical, medical products and biotechnology industry. He also spent eight years working for the Pharmaceutical Division of Eli Lilly and Co. As marketing plans manager, he helped develop the launch strategy and introduction of Prozac into the U.S. market.

Kaplan shares his innovation musings on Twitter (@skap5), his blog (It’s Saul Connected) and as regular contributor to the Harvard Business Review and Bloomberg Business Week.

Kaplan holds a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy from the University of Rhode Island and a master’s in business administration from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute focusing on the strategic management of technology.
Scott Kirsner

Scott Kirsner is a journalist who writes about innovation and entrepreneurship. His “Innovation Economy” column appears Sundays in the Boston Globe, and he also writes a companion blog at boston.com/innovation.

Kirsner has been a regular contributor to Fast Company, BusinessWeek, Variety and Wired. His writing has also appeared in the New York Times, The Hollywood Reporter, Salon, the San Jose Mercury News, and Newsweek, among other publications.

Kirsner serves as the program chair for three regional events on innovation: the Nantucket Conference, held each May since 2000; Future Forward, held each fall since 2001; and the Convergence Forum, launched in 2004. He is the author, most recently, of the book Fans, Friends & Followers: Building an Audience and a Creative Career in the Digital Age. His earlier books include Inventing the Movies, a technological history of Hollywood that was published in 2008, and The Future of Web Video: New Opportunities for Producers, Entrepreneurs, Media Companies and Advertisers, published in 2007.

He holds a bachelor’s degree from Boston University.

Gloria Larson


Prior to her state service, she managed business and regulatory issues as a senior official with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), including serving as an attorney advisor to the FTC commissioner from 1981 to 1988, and as the deputy director of consumer protection at the FTC from 1990 to 1991.

In January 2005, she was appointed to the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy Board. Boston Mayor Thomas Menino tapped her to serve on the city’s Host Committee for the 2004 Democratic National Convention. Larson is a director of Unum Group and lead director of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. She is a board member on several prominent professional and community organizations, including the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, for which she is the newly elected chair; Boston Center for the Arts; Roger Williams University School of Law; Massachusetts Women’s Forum; Rosie’s Place; and The Dimock Center. She is a member of the Massachusetts, Virginia and Boston bar associations.

She holds a bachelor’s degree from Vassar College and a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Martha McLeod

Martha McLeod is president of Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield, Conn., a college that offers unique programs in manufacturing technologies and allied health careers as well as transfer programs to UConn, the Connecticut State Universities and other area colleges in both Connecticut and Massachusetts.

She is a member of Epsilon Pi Tau, an international honor society for service toward the advancement of technology. She has served on workforce development and emerging technologies commissions for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the American Council on Education (ACE) and the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE). She sits on the CWP Strategic Management Committee for the state’s regional Workforce Investment Board for North Central Connecticut, in Hartford.

She serves on the Economic Development Commission for the city of Enfield and served as chair for Enfield’s 10-Year Plan of Conservation and Economic Development. She has worked with the Connecticut Department of Labor and the Connecticut Director of Economic Development, to work with incoming European businesses to identify needed workforce...
skills and provide appropriate preparation and training to potential employees.

McLeod holds a bachelor’s degree from SUNY New Paltz, a master’s from Vermont College, and a doctorate in education from Nova Southeastern University.

Lawrence Miller

Lawrence Miller is secretary of Vermont’s Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

Miller was the founder of Otter Creek Brewing Inc. As owner, CEO, and brewmaster, he grew Otter Creek from a single-person, draft-only brewery in 1990 to a leading regional specialty brewer when the company sold in 2002. Miller served on the board and in various posts with Vermont, New England and national brewers associations.

After selling Otter Creek, Miller developed an independent advisory practice focusing on manufacturers of consumer products including startups, high-growth companies and turnarounds. During this period, he also served on the Committee of Operating Executives at Worth Mountain Capital Partners and as a peer advisor with the Vermont Peer-to-Peer Collaborative, now housed at the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund.

In 2007, he became chair and CEO at Danforth Pewter, where he led a strategy from wholesale to multichannel consumer marketing, including acquisition of compatible pewter brands.

Miller had direct experience with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development as a client and volunteer. In 2010, he served on the Oversight Panel for the reform of State and Regional Economic Development and Planning services, which was created as part of Challenges for Change. From 1997 to 2006, he served on he board of the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC), the last two years as chair. VEPC was tasked with long-range economic development planning and administering the state’s tax-incentive programs in support of a vision of “Vermont as an economically and environmentally healthy place to work and live.” He was also the first chairman of the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund and served on the Advisory Committee to create the new VSJF Flexible Capital Fund.

Miller holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Reed College and completed the Birthing of Giants Entrepreneurial Leadership program at MIT.

Barry Mills

Barry Mills was inaugurated as Bowdoin College’s 14th president in October 2001 as the college was beginning its 200th academic year.

As president, Mills has underscored the primacy of Bowdoin’s academic program and has worked with the faculty to redefine a liberal arts education for the 21st century. Together with former Dean for Academic Affairs Craig McEwen, Mills led the first major curriculum reform at Bowdoin since the early 1980s.

The college has also successfully recommitted itself to the goal of expanding ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic diversity among students and employees. Mills has worked to increase national visibility for Bowdoin and initiated a comprehensive campus master planning study to guide future development on the campus. He has worked to strengthen support for the arts at the college, completing a major expansion and renovation of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art and a conversion of the Curtis Pool building into the Studzinski Recital Hall and 280-seat Kanbar Auditorium. He has also overseen construction of new residence halls and a new health and fitness center and ice arena.

In 2008, Mills announced that Bowdoin would replace student loans with grants for all students. Mills has also emphasized sustainability efforts at the college through the construction of “green” facilities and other conservation and sustainability efforts.
Mills previously served as the deputy presiding partner of Debevoise & Plimpton in New York City, one of the nation’s preeminent international law firms.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and government from Bowdoin, a doctorate in biology from Syracuse University and a law degree from Columbia University School of Law.

Karen Mills

Karen G. Mills was sworn in on April 6, 2009, as the 23rd Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration after being appointed by President Barack Obama and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate. On Jan. 13, 2012, she was elevated to serve in the President’s Cabinet.

Since 1983, Mills has been a successful manager of small businesses. She has distinguished herself as a passionate advocate for small business policy that encourages innovation, economic development and job creation.

Her background also includes consulting in the U.S. and Europe for the management consulting firm McKinsey & Co. and product management for General Foods. In 2007, she was appointed by Maine Gov. John Baldacci as chair of the state’s Council on Competitiveness and the Economy, where she focused on attracting investment in rural and regional development initiatives.

She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has been vice chairman of the Harvard Overseers.

Mills has an bachelor’s degree in economics from Harvard University, and a master’s in business administration from Harvard Business School.

Joseph B. Moore

Joseph B. Moore is president of Lesley University.

The Cambridge, Mass.-based university enrolls 2,000 undergraduate students and more than 6,000 graduate students, with 74,000 alumni.

Before his appointment at Lesley, Moore served seven years as the president of Empire State College, a comprehensive college within the State University of New York. Previously he was provost and vice president of academic affairs at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania, and director of academic affairs and planning in the Office of the Chancellor at Vermont State Colleges.

He is the chair of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts and a member of the Board of Overseers at the Citi Performing Arts Center in Boston.

Moore holds a bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Massachusetts, a master’s in English from the University of New Hampshire and a doctorate in education administration from the University of Vermont.
Charles Moret

Charles Moret is managing director of business development for Connecticut Innovations (CI), where he is responsible for developing and supporting business opportunities and maintaining relationships with key partner organizations.

He also directs CI’s $19 million Pre-Seed Fund, the $1 million TechStart Fund, the TechStart Accelerator Program and the CTech initiative, a technology business incubator that focuses on supporting entrepreneurs and startup and early-stage technology ventures.

Moret joined CI in 2000 with more than 25 years of experience in business, finance, marketing and entrepreneurship.

He is active on numerous boards, such as the Connecticut Business Incubator Network, MIT Enterprise Forum, Connecticut Venture Group, Connecticut Small Business Advisory Board and Simsbury Board of Education.

Moret holds a bachelor’s degree in marketing from Pace University and a master’s degree in business administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Deb Neuman

Deb Neuman is deputy commissioner of Maine’s Department of Economic and Community Development.

Prior to this, Neuman was director of the Target Technology Center at the University of Maine and as a business development specialist, counselor and lender with Eastern Maine Development Corp.

Neuman produces and hosts the award-winning “Back To Business” talk radio show on WVOM in Maine and on stations throughout New England. She has appeared on radio and television and in publications from Maine to Spain offering business advice and insights.

She holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of the Pacific.

Peggy Newell

Peggy Newell was named provost and senior vice president ad interim of Tufts University in July 2011.

She has been at Tufts since 1982, serving as associate dean of the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences and associate dean for special programs at the School of Medicine prior to becoming associate provost for research in 1998.

In her role as associate provost for research, she created the first office of proposal development and the first office of technology licensing and industry collaboration at Tufts. As vice provost since 2004, she is responsible for implementing Tufts policies on conflict of interest and misconduct in research, and compliance with regulations on the use of laboratory animals, human subjects, recombinant DNA and infectious agents. In addition, she rebuilt the Office of Research Administration, reorganized the financial and administrative operations of the provost’s area, and helped launch the “Tufts in the World” program under the auspices of the International Board of Overseers.

As interim provost, Newell is committed to the advancement and support of teaching, research and scholarship, while she leads the schools in academic planning and priority-setting across the university.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Boston College, a master’s in business administration from Boston College Carroll School of Management and a law degree from Suffolk University Law School.
Richard L. Pattenaude

Richard Pattenaude is chancellor emeritus of the University of Maine System and is a System Professor of Political Science.

Pattenaude was chancellor of the University of Maine System from 2007 to 2012, after serving for 16 years as president of the University of Southern Maine.

Prior to that, for five years he was vice president for academic affairs and provost at Central Connecticut State University and five years as associate vice president for academic affairs at the State University of New York at Binghamton. Before moving to New York, Pattenaude was a member of the political science faculty and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts for six years at Drake University in Iowa. His areas of expertise include American government, university leadership, public administration and organizational theory.

He is vice chair and chair-elect of the Commission for Institutions of High Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). He also serves on the Council for the Advancement of Experiential Education (CAEL), the national steering committee of the Lumina-funded College Readiness Project, the Alfond College Scholarship Foundation, Maine Health, and the Maine Discovery Museum.

He has served on the boards of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), Portland Museum of Art, World Affairs Council, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the Maine Science & Technology Foundation, Maine Development Foundation, Portland United Way, the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Maine Medical Center, Institute for Civic Leadership, and the Portland Symphony Orchestra. He was selected to sit on the National Commission on Accountability in Higher Education, sponsored by the Ford Foundation.

A native of Seattle, Pattenaude holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from San Jose State University and a doctorate in political science from the University of Colorado.

Craig Powell

Craig Powell founded ConnectEDU in 2002. As CEO, his primary responsibilities are setting the strategic direction, engaging with and supporting critical partners, driving product innovations and ensuring that the ConnectEDU team has what it needs to execute on the company’s mission to connect learners to possibilities.

Before founding ConnectEDU, Powell was a member of the professional investment team at Nautic Partners, a $2 billion private equity fund in Providence, RI. At Nautic, he honed his entrepreneurial skills and learned the importance of a team of seasoned managers. With this knowledge and a passion for leveling the playing field for students, he was encouraged by colleagues, investors and industry experts to take the next steps in changing the college and career access landscape for students and their families.

He is member of the New Leaders for New Schools Board in New York City and a National Board Member for The I Have a Dream Foundation.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from Brown University.
Michael Reopel

Michael Reopel is a principal in the Boston Office of Deloitte Consulting and co-leader of the firm’s Strategy and Operations Practice for manufacturing clients. He has worked primarily with large industrial, aerospace and high-tech clients, focusing on supply-chain strategy, operations excellence and top-line growth initiatives.

Prior to joining Deloitte Consulting, Reopel was a partner at both A.T. Kearney and McKinsey & Co. Before joining the private sector, he taught economics and government at West Point and served as a White House Fellow during the Reagan administration.

His publications have included *Winning the Profit Game* and several articles in major business journals concerning supply-chain strategies and growth. As a board member of the New England Council, he has published two reports addressing economic development, “Sustainable Prosperity-an Agenda for New England” and “Reexamining Advanced Manufacturing in a Networked World”.

Reopel holds a bachelor’s degree in engineering from the United States Military Academy and a master’s from Harvard University.

John Saltmarsh

John Saltmarsh is co-director of the New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE) at the University of Massachusetts Boston and a faculty member in the UMass Boston’s Higher Education Administration Doctoral Program.

He leads a project in which NERCHE serves as the administrative partner with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching for Carnegie’s elective Community Engagement Classification. He is the author, most recently of *To Serve a Larger Purpose* (co-edited with Matthew of the University of Pennsylvania); *Engagement for Democracy and the Transformation of Higher Education* (2011) and a book with Edward Zlotkowski, *Higher Education and Democracy: Essays on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement* (2011).

He is the author of numerous book chapters and articles on civic engagement, service-learning and experiential education, and the co-author of the Democratic Engagement White Paper. He is an associate editor for the Michigan Journal of Community Service-Learning, and on the editorial board of the Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement. He serves on the National Advisory Board of Imagining America, a member of Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU) Coordinating Committee Members of the Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Action Network and a past chair and member of the board of the International Association for Research on Service Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE), as an ex-officio member of the Board of The Democracy Imperative, and on AACU’s board of the Core Commitments Project.

From 1998 through 2005, he directed the national Project on Integrating Service with Academic Study at Campus Compact.

Saltmarsh taught for more than a decade at Northeastern University and as a Visiting Research Fellow at the Feinstein Institute for Public Service at Providence College.

He holds a doctorate in American history from Boston University.
Leonard A. Schlesinger

Leonard A. Schlesinger became the 12th president of Babson College in July 2008.

He came to Babson from Limited Brands, where he served in executive positions from 1999 to 2007, most recently as vice chair and COO. From 1985 to 1988, Schlesinger was executive vice president and COO at Au Bon Pain.

His academic career includes 20 years at Harvard Business School where he served as the George Fisher Baker Jr. Professor of Business Administration, leading MBA and executive education programs. He also was architect and chair of Harvard Business School’s MBA Essential Skills and Foundations programs.

Schlesinger is well-known for his pioneering research and publications on the “Service Profit Chain.” He is the author or co-author of 11 books, including Just Start: Take Action, Embrace Uncertainty, Create the Future, and has written more than 40 articles for academic audiences as well as for The New York Times, Fast Company and the Harvard Business Review.

Schlesinger serves on the board of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts (AICUM), the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), is a director of Invoice Exchange, LLC, a member of the Corporation of the Winsor School and the President’s Council of the Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering. He is the non-executive chair of Unreal Brands Inc. and as an advisory council member of Goldman Sachs’ 10,000 Small Businesses Initiative, as well as a member of the Council on Competitiveness and the Council on Foreign Relations.

Schlesinger holds a bachelor’s degree in American civilization from Brown University, a master’s in business administration from Columbia University and a doctorate in business administration from Harvard Business School.

Gov. Peter Shumlin

Peter Shumlin (D-Vt.) is the governor of Vermont. He was appointed to the Vermont House of Representatives in 1990, elected to the Vermont State Senate in 1992, and became Senate president pro tempore in 1994. After leaving the Senate in 2003, he was re-elected in 2006 and again assumed his leadership position as state Senate president. He was elected governor in January 2011.

Earlier this month, Shumlin and the state’s education commissioner announced plans to make Algebra I and Geometry a state high school graduation requirement.

Shumlin was also the longtime co-director of an educational initiative that allows students in middle and high school to travel to foreign countries, learn about different cultures and prepare for college.

He holds a bachelor’s degree from Wesleyan University.

Keith W. Stokes

Keith W. Stokes appointed executive director of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corp. in January 2010.

He is chair of the Quonset Development Corp. Prior to his appointment, Stokes served as treasurer of the R.I. Economic Development Corp. and a board member of the Quonset Development Corp.

Stokes was executive director of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce for more than 15 years. Prior to working at the chamber, he was senior policy advisor to Rhode Island Gov. Bruce Sundlun, executive director of the Omni Development Corp., and senior policy advisor to the Rhode Island General Treasurer. He served three terms on the Newport City Council.

He is a frequent national, state and local lecturer in community and regional planning, historic preservation and interpretation with expertise in early African and Jewish American history.
Stokes holds a bachelor’s degree from Cornell University and a master’s degree from the University of Chicago.

Michael K. Thomas

Michael K. Thomas is president and chief executive officer of the New England Board of Higher Education. Thomas joined NEBHE in 2002 and served as both senior director and senior vice president, directing NEBHE’s policy, research and programmatic activities. Thomas has worked in corporate training and human resources and held varied administrative positions in higher education institutions, both public and independent, including as executive assistant to the president at Lesley University.

He has been a faculty member, adjunct professor and lecturer at several universities and served as trustee and vice chair of the board of Worcester State University.

Thomas holds a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Brigham Young University and master’s degrees in higher education from Teachers College, Columbia University and Harvard University. He holds an MBA from Boston University and a doctorate in education and social policy from Harvard University.

Judith Van Houten

Judith Van Houten was named University Distinguished Professor at the University of Vermont, a lifetime appointment. She serves as the George H. Perkins Professor of Biology at UVM and was appointed state director of the Vermont Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VT EPSCoR) in 2005. She is the Principal Investigator of the Vermont NSF EPSCoR grant.

In September 2008, she was inducted into the Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering (VASE). In 2010, Van Houten was elected as a fellow to the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences and holds leadership positions on national boards as past president of the National Association of IDeA Primary Investigators, and vice chair of the NSF EPSCoR Project Director’s Executive Council. Van Houten served as director of the Hughes Endeavor for Life Science Excellence Program, from 1995-2009, which supported undergraduate research at UVM. She has also secured additional NSF awards for statewide Cyber infrastructure improvements including the formation of the Northeast Cyberinfrastructure Consortium (NECC).

Under Van Houten’s direction, Vermont EPSCoR has received many recognitions including most recently, the 2012 New England Higher Education State Merit Award and a Boston/New England Emmy in 2009 for the Vermont Public Television series, Emerging Science, produced in partnership with Vermont EPSCoR, which showcases Vermont scientists and researchers.

Van Houten holds a bachelor’s degree from Pacific Lutheran University and a doctorate from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Richard C. Walker III

Richard Walker has more than three decades of experience in business and community development in Boston. For the last 21 years, he has worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, where he is currently vice president and community affairs officer of the Public and Community Affairs Department.

Previously, he served in executive positions at the Massachusetts Housing Partnership, the Lincoln Filene Center for Citizenship and Public Affairs at Tufts University, and the Greater Roxbury Development Corporation. He has been instrumental in developing the Boston Business Collaborative, a project that links major corporations with existing minority businesses and let to the formation of the Initiative for a New Economy.
Walker was an initial participant in the formulation of the Black/Jewish roundtable with the American Jewish Committee. He also participated in the working groups that helped form the Massachusetts Housing Investment Corp. and Massachusetts Community and Banking Council. In September 2000, the governor of Massachusetts appointed Walker to the board of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, and in 2007 he was appointed to the board of Bunker Hill Community College.

He serves on numerous other boards and is actively involved in promoting fair and equal access to finance and credit through a variety of approaches. He is the executive producer of the award-winning video To Their Credit: Financing Women Owned Business, which was first broadcast on KQED in San Francisco in July 1999. He was also responsible for the video Lesson from a Storm: Banking for Safety. He was instrumental in the development of the Federal Reserve Bank’s widely distributed publication Closing the Gap: A Guide to Equal Opportunity Lending, designed to help banks avoid possible discriminatory lending practices. He also produced the popular consumer video Identity Theft: Protect Yourself and its companion publication, Identity Theft.

Amanda Wittman

Amanda Wittman is director of Academic and Strategic Initiatives at Campus Compact, where she provides high-level project management, leadership and oversight for Campus Compact’s work with faculty, consultants and partners. Whitman is a member of the senior team and works with higher education colleagues, network affiliate staff and faculty to embed civic and community engagement within teaching and research activities at Compact member schools.

She is on the editorial advisory board for AAC&U’s Diversity & Democracy and serves as a peer reviewer for the Journal of Higher Education Outreach & Engagement.

Amanda’s current research focuses on nontraditional learners in service learning and the connections between economic development and civic engagement.

She holds a doctorate in politics and international relations from the University of Edinburgh.