

GOVERNOR PATRICK APPOINTS RICHARD YAGJIAN AS CHAIR OF NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOSTON – Friday, October 19, 2012 – Governor Deval Patrick today appointed experienced business and management professional Richard Yagjian as Chair of the Board of Trustees at North Shore Community College.

The Governor's community college plan, supported by the Legislature and included in the FY13 budget, calls for the Governor to appoint the Chair of the Board of Trustees at each community college. This plan will create a more integrated, effective community college *system* that is responsive to both local and statewide employer needs by giving community colleges additional capacity to expand their efforts to provide students with high-quality, relevant educational and training programs. This plan will also help strengthen the connections between our campuses, our employers, and our workforce so that students of all ages have the opportunity to succeed.

"Our community colleges are at the center of our efforts to close the skills gap and help people get back to work in Massachusetts," said Governor Patrick. "I want to thank Mr. Yagjian for his willingness to serve in this capacity and am confident that he will be a critical partner in our collective efforts to better serve our students and employers, building a stronger Commonwealth for generations to come."

Mr. Yagjian currently serves as Executive Vice-President & Chief Operating Officer for W.B. Hunt Company, Inc., where he plans and directs all aspects of the company's operational policies and strategic goals and initiatives. He is a member of the North Shore Community College Foundation Board, President of the Essex National Heritage Commission, and is a member of the Board of Directors for Saugusbank. Mr. Yagjian attended North Shore Community College and Northeastern University. He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees at North Shore Community College for three years and is filling the chairmanship formerly held by John Nelson.

"I believe the Massachusetts community college system will be the backbone of workforce development and the conduit to a better life for thousands of our residents by providing a first-class yet cost-effective education both through certificate and degree programs and as a springboard to our 4-year educational institutions," said Mr. Yagjian.

"Richard Yagjian, as an NSCC graduate, effective foundation board member, and trustee of the college, brings proven leadership skills and high commitment to the chairmanship of our board of trustees," said North Shore Community College President Wayne M. Burton. "As a successful small businessman, President of the Essex National Heritage Commission, and regional leader, Rich enjoys significant respect in the North Shore, the model of a civic professional we urge students to emulate."

Delivering on the goals of his community college plan, Governor Patrick recently awarded community colleges a total of \$4 million in grants to support increased skill training and workforce alignment, improved student learning outcomes and efficiency measures at campuses across the Commonwealth.

These grants will give campuses the additional capacity they need to promote higher completion rates of degrees and certificates, be more responsive to the needs of local economies as well as of the state's fastest growing sectors and adopt a system-wide standard core of course offerings. North Shore Community College received \$174,356 to develop a virtual career center that complements the career mapping project funded by the Administration last year.

To learn more about the Governor's community college plan visit <http://www.mass.gov/governor/agenda/education/>