

GOVERNOR PATRICK APPOINTS RALPH F. CAHOON III AS CHAIR OF CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOSTON – Friday, October 19, 2012 – Governor Deval Patrick today appointed Ralph F. Cahoon III as Chair of the Board of Trustees at Cape Cod Community College. Mr. Cahoon is the current Board Chair at Cape Cod Community College and today’s announcement is an affirmation of his appointment under the Governor’s new authority to appoint the Board Chairs at each of the Commonwealth’s fifteen community colleges.

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. Cahoon 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. Cahoon is a counselor at the Community Health Center of Cape Cod. Prior to joining the community health center, he worked for many years as a patrol officer and accreditation manager at Barnstable Police Department. Mr. Cahoon earned an Associate in Arts degree from Cape Cod Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree in law enforcement from Western New England College, and a Master of Social Work degree from Boston University. Mr. Cahoon has served as a member of the Board of Trustees at Cape Cod Community College for over five years.

“As an alumnus of CCCC, it’s an honor to serve as Board Chair at the institution that provided me with the opportunity to improve myself,” said Mr. Cahoon. “I look forward to working with the Board, our new President, Dr. Cox, and all of our dedicated faculty and staff in the continuing work of making CCCC a valued educational resource for all Cape Codders.”

“I’m delighted the Governor has appointed Mr. Cahoon as Board Chair. As the Board’s elected alumni member, and with prior Board experience, Ralph brings breadth and understanding of the region, K-16 education, and a commitment to 4Cs,” said Cape Cod Community College President John Cox. “Having begun my service as president on July 1st, Mr. Cahoon has truly been an asset during my transition and for the Board’s leadership.”

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. Cape Cod Community College received \$137,211 to enhance college readiness in the Cape Cod area and to increase student retention rates on campus.

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