

Rhode Island Board of Governors
for Higher Education
The Shepard Building
80 Washington Street Suite 524
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Enclosure 7a


August 22, 2011

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August 15, 2011

TO: Members of the Board of Governors for Higher Education

FROM: Ray M. Di Pasquale, Commissioner 

SUBJECT: Approval of a Naming Opportunity for the Fitness and Wellness Center at the University of Rhode Island

President David Dooley is requesting the Board's approval of a naming opportunity at the University of Rhode Island College. In his attached memo, President Dooley notes the Fascitelli family's contributions to URI's fundraising efforts for the renovation of this facility, which, when completed, will serve thousands of students and campus community members.

In accordance with his request, I recommend --

THAT the Board of Governors for Higher Education authorizes the naming of the Fitness and Wellness Center at the University of Rhode Island as the Anna Fascitelli Fitness and Wellness Center, and

THAT the Board of Governors submits this recommendation to the appropriate committee(s) of the General Assembly.

Attachment

David M. Dooley, Ph.D.
President



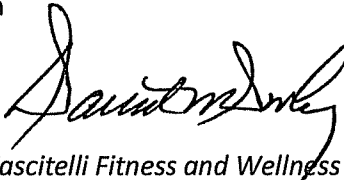
MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

AUG 10 2011

Date: August 2, 2011

To: Ray Di Pasquale, Commissioner
Office of Higher Education

From: David M. Dooley, Ph.D.
President 

Re: Naming Request – *Anna Fascitelli Fitness and Wellness Center*

On behalf of the University of Rhode Island, I am proposing that our Roger Williams Fitness and Wellness Center be named the *Anna Fascitelli Fitness and Wellness Center*. Anna Fascitelli is the deceased mother of URI alumnus and donor Michael Fascitelli.

Nearly five years ago, Mr. Fascitelli donated \$1 million toward the proposed renovation of Roger Williams. At the time, his gift equaled 25% of the proposed renovation. Mike's gift included the request that we name the exterior of the facility in memory of his mother. The gift was made as one of the lead gifts to our "*Making a Difference*" campaign. Mr. Fascitelli was a member of the Campaign Steering Committee and felt it important that he make a significant gift in order to help motivate other potential donors.

As you know, work will begin later this summer on the Roger Williams project. When completed, it will serve as a major, inherent part of student life and campus community by housing recreational and physical fitness equipment, plus providing opportunities for wellness education and related activities. The project took longer than anticipated to get off the ground; in intervening years it has appropriately expanded in terms of concept and potential offerings.

We are delighted that something as inherent to the campus community as a wellness center can bear the family name of one of our most prominent and supportive alums. One of the reasons that Mike Fascitelli chose to support this facility is his own interest in, and commitment to, campus life. He realizes that this facility will have a direct affect on URI's ability to recruit and retain students. While the exterior would be named in memory of Anna Fascitelli, a number of interior naming opportunities exist (including one that was established nearly five years ago by Bank of America as a campaign leadership gift).

Michael Fascitelli is a leading University donor and volunteer. In addition to this \$1 million toward Roger Williams, he established an endowed scholarship, contributed to the Convocation Center campaign, and is a major donor to our Annual Fund. He is a member of the URI Foundation Board. Mike has been an active speaker at University alumni events around the country. He is a nationally prominent businessperson, serving as the President and CEO of Vornado Realty Trust in New York City.

A native of North Providence, RI, Mike was graduated from URI in 1978 with a degree in Industrial Engineering. He is a dedicated family person who still has family here in the state. His mother was one of the most important people in his life. At the University of Rhode Island, we feel it is important to recognize such family values and are pleased to have such memorial naming opportunities.

I respectfully request that you and the Board of Governors approve this request. I also request that it be forwarded to the General Assembly for its approval.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me.