



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION  
80 Washington Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

**Enclosure 9f**

**April 1, 2015**

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To: Council on Postsecondary Education  
From: Commissioner Jim Purcell, Ed.D  
Date: March 27, 2015  
Subject: Rescinding of an honorary degree

The granting of honorary degrees is an opportunity for the public postsecondary institutions in Rhode Island to recognize an individual of distinguished merit who has made significant contributions to the institution, has given distinguished service to the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, or has earned high distinction nationally or internationally. However, in those rare circumstances when an individual has been honored by the granting of an honorary degree but subsequently has demonstrated a lack of ethical standards, the Council on Postsecondary Education, may exercise its authority to rescind the honorary degree.<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, the following motion is proposed to the Council on Postsecondary Education:

--Whereas the eligibility to be awarded an honorary degree from a Rhode Island public institution of postsecondary education rests upon the recipient being a person of distinguished merit and

--Whereas, Gordon Fox has demonstrated a lack of the core values of the Council on Postsecondary Education and the public postsecondary institutions of the state of Rhode Island, the Council on Postsecondary Education rescinds the awarding of the honorary Doctor of Laws degree to Mr. Gordon Fox.

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<sup>1</sup> Rhode Island General Laws § 16-59-1 states that the Council on Postsecondary Education shall "exercise all the powers, in addition to those specifically enumerated in this chapter, usually appertaining to public corporations entrusted with control of public postsecondary educational institutions and functions."