



September 10, 2009

Dear School Administrators, Teachers, and All School Personnel:

I look forward to meeting you, but for now please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Eileen Sullivan and I am the new Assistant Dean of Partnerships and Placements at the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development at Rhode Island College. I am eager to start my new position here because I will be able to work with you, the educators in the schools; this has always been the favorite part of my job so my recent administrative position at RIC is a natural progression.

First, I come to RIC with a background in teaching and administering five programs and faculty at Boston University where I worked for the past twenty-six years. I consider myself a “techie” at heart as I developed an all-online graduate certificate, and designed then taught classes online for the past five years. I also recorded a podcast and hope to use this medium to relay some information in the future. My research interests include effective teaching practices, evaluation of teaching behaviors, and the use of active learning and interdisciplinary movement units in the classroom.

Second, I will be working to make our relationships and partnerships stronger and more rewarding and efficient for all involved. One of our priorities for the Office of Partnerships and Placements is to be more visible in the districts where our RIC students are working side-by-side with your exemplary teachers. I am eager to come to meet you in your schools, so in the coming months I hope we can connect. Please invite me to a special event in your district or to come see you in the field. We will be setting policy about placements, planning some new initiatives, using more technology for accessibility of documents, and planning professional development programs. Here is a summary of our plans:

- Re-establishing and strengthening our connections with you
- Updating requirements, policy, and documentation for all practicum, student teaching placements
- Discussing and planning opportunities for new initiatives
- Arranging professional development programs and seminars at the college and within districts
- Maintaining an open communication and dialogue

Finally, my philosophy is an open door policy and I encourage you to contact me. I look forward to meeting and working with you in the coming months as we work together to prepare professionals for excellence in teaching.

Sincerely,

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