About President David M. Dooley

With more than 30 years of experience in public and private higher education, Dr. David M. Dooley became the University of Rhode Island’s 11th president in July 2009.

Known for his collaborative leadership style that encourages entrepreneurial approaches to problem solving and program development, President Dooley fosters a community of discovery that involves all URI students, faculty and staff. He has reshaped the University’s strategic direction, creating a set of broadly defined goals critical to the University’s evolution.

In 2010, his Transformational Goals provided leadership with the overall guidelines for creating a new academic plan and mission focused on achievement and institutional effectiveness. A Progress Report in 2014 highlights the distinctive accomplishments.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

In recognition of his leadership and support of diverse areas of research, President Dooley has been called upon to serve on several regional, national and international board and committees. These include his appointment as CEO co-chair for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Board on Oceans, Atmosphere, and Climate (BOAC) for 2015–16; and his nomination for a second two-year term on the Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council.

Actively engaged in teaching and research throughout his academic career, in 2012 Dr. Dooley was named a Fellow of the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for his distinguished career of sustained discovery and innovation.

BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the University of Rhode Island, Dr. Dooley was provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Montana State, Bozeman, Mont., for 10 years, having served for seven years earlier as head of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. During his tenure, he was a central figure in attracting research dollars, helping to grow that university’s budget to $100 million.

Dr. Dooley earned a B.A. in Chemistry from the University of California in San Diego and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. Dr. Dooley’s wife, Lynn Baker–Dooley, is a Baptist minister. The couple has two adult children, Chris and Samantha, and a dog named Rhody.