

RIVIER EDUCATION CHAIR NAMED STOKES INSTITUTE SENIOR FELLOW

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Dr. Robert McLaughlin chosen as the first fellow for a new institute launched to improve education in science, technology, engineering and math.



Dr. Robert T. McLaughlin, new chair of Rivier College's education division, has been selected as the first Senior Fellow for the Council for Opportunity in Education's newly created Louis Stokes Institute for Opportunity in STEM Education. The Institute's mission is to conduct research and inform public policies that foster improved access to and success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education at the K-12 and postsecondary levels for the nation's underserved and underrepresented students.

The Washington, D.C.-based institute is named after Congressman Louis Stokes, the founder of the Congressional Black Caucus.

As the institute's Senior Fellow, Dr. McLaughlin will serve on the institute's advisory board. He will advise the institute regarding strategies for strengthening the dissemination, replication and institutionalization of research-proven policies and practices that significantly

improve educational opportunities and success in STEM education. The Institute focuses on economically disadvantaged and ethnically, racially and linguistically diverse students.

The Council's plans for the new institute were unveiled in May at a reception on Capitol Hill attended and sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Caucus on Innovation and Diversity.

Institute director Kathryn Kailikole explained that Dr. McLaughlin was chosen for this fellowship "because of his experience in building statewide, regional and national consortia committed to identifying and replicating effective strategies that enhance educational equity in STEM disciplines for students at the K-12 and postsecondary levels, particularly for those in economically distressed communities."

Dr. McLaughlin noted, "being named for this fellowship is a blessing, as the Council and its institute will advise us, helping us to learn about and employ strategies at Rivier College that support our ongoing efforts to recruit, retain and serve effectively students and faculty from diverse backgrounds. Given the College's profound commitment to equity and social justice, we'll now have a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with many kindred spirits from across the nation. We'll also be able to provide interested faculty and doctoral students with exciting opportunities to conduct research and inform public policy related to these challenges facing New Hampshire, the region and the country." ■