

RIVIER COLLEGE ANNOUNCES PLANS TO SEEK UNIVERSITY STATUS

(Rivier's News Report, November 11, 2011)*

Karen Cooper**

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Rivier College's President, **Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM** reported to faculty and staff in October 2011 that as a result of her initial conversations related to the themes of her strategic plan and preliminary conversations with the New Hampshire Department of Education, the College has been given the opportunity to request a change in status from "college" to "university" from the New Hampshire Higher Education Commission at their December 1, 2011 meeting.

This action begins the formal process. It is possible that a final legislative action may be required in the Spring of 2012, and she anticipates transitioning to a new name (if approved) in the Fall of 2012.

As a result of this opportunity, Sister Paula requested an endorsement for such a change from "college" to "university" from the governance and advisory structures of the College.

These endorsements supported her request to the Executive Committee of the Rivier College Board of Trustees to authorize the College administration to commence and pursue the regulatory and/or legislative processes necessary to secure university status.

At an event in early December, Rivier alumni will have the opportunity to meet and talk with Sister Paula regarding the College's pursuit of university status. Details will be posted online at <http://www.rivier.edu/alumnievents/>.

* Retrieved November 11, 2011, from <http://www.rivier.edu/news/Default.aspx?ID=19681>

** **KAREN COOPER** is the Executive Director of Development and Marketing in Rivier College. As a Senior Staff member, she directs the Office of Development & Alumni Relations and the Office of Marketing & Communications. Karen has been with the College for seven years. Cooper is a graduate of Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts, with a degree in English and Psychology. She earned her M.B.A. with a marketing concentration from Rivier in 2003. In addition to her responsibilities at Rivier, she serves on the steering committee for IUGO, an organization for young professionals in the Greater Nashua area, and was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees for the Academy of Notre Dame in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts.