

RIVIER UNIVERSITY HOSTS CANADA-U.S. BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM

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On Oct. 25, 2012, the Rivier University President's Circle, in collaboration with the New Hampshire International Trade Resource Center and the Consulate General of Canada, presented a Canada-U.S. Business Symposium on the Rivier campus entitled "Doing Business with Friends."

The event gave attendees an opportunity to learn more about the benefits of the Canada-U.S. trade relationship, and what resources are available for U.S. businesses.

Paul Clark, chair of the Rivier University President's Circle, opened by thanking Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM, Rivier's president, and welcoming Nashua Mayor Donnalee Lozeau, as well as keynote speaker Patrick G. Binns, Consul General of Canada to New England. Mr. Binns began his career in northern Alberta as a community development officer and in 1972 moved to Prince Edward Island, where he became Assistant Manager of the Rural Development Council. He later served in P.E.I.'s public service and Provincial Legislature, holding many cabinet portfolios, and became leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of P.E.I. and the province's 30th Premier for 11 years. From 2007 to 2010, he served as Ambassador of Canada to Ireland, and currently serves as Consul General of Canada for New England.

Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM offered opening remarks. "Thank you for joining us today for consultation, for collaboration, and for implementation. There is a great synergy and affection between Rivier University and our good neighbors to the north." She went on to emphasize the importance of new global initiatives at the University – such as study abroad opportunities, pending agreements with academic institutions in other countries, and the new Global Studies and Transnational Security programs – saying that "global engagement takes us beyond the world of the classroom." In the opening keynote, Patrick G. Binns explained the importance of the trade relationship between the United States and Canada, saying, "In terms of overall trade, sometimes people don't realize how big it is between Canada and the U.S. We are the largest trading partner by far... There is a big focus on trade and the economic relationship, and we need to reduce the impediments to trade."

The symposium included a panel discussion between local businesses who have been involved in trade between the two countries, their experiences and best practices. A networking lunch allowed event attendees to connect with peers and industry specialists.

The Rivier University President's Circle brings together business leaders to discuss issues that impact the businesses and citizens of New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and strives to strengthen connections with the business community and to serve as a valuable resource for large and small business and organizations. Comprised of Presidents, CEOs, and business leaders, the President's Circle hosts events during the University's fall and spring semesters. ■

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