

RIVIER WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

(From Rivier Today, Spring 2014)

Three Rivier University leaders were recently honored with awards for their service and dedication to the community. “These leaders share a sense of purpose and devotion to advancing Rivier’s mission of transformation,” says Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM, President.



Dianne Mercier, N.H. President of People’s United Bank and River University Board of Trustee member, was named 2014 Business Leader of the Year by *Business NH Magazine* and honored at an event in Manchester in May. Mercier serves on several other local boards including Elliot Health Systems in Manchester, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce,

N.H. Business Committee for the Arts, RiverWoods Continuing Care Retirement Community in Exeter, and the N.H. Center for Public Policy Studies.. Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM, President supported Mercier’s nomination noting “her commitment to excel inspires us to reach higher and better as we fulfill our mission. She offers practical advice and wisdom that has guided the implementation of programs of academic distinction, student leadership, and global engagement.”



Karen Cooper, Vice President for University Advancement, received the Young Professional of the Year award by the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce at the organization’s annual Eminence Awards in March. Cooper was recognized for her support of the community including her role as a member of the Chamber’s Board of Directors and

a founding member of the city’s young professionals network. She recently completed a term as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Chamber, the youngest individual to fill this leadership position in the Chamber’s history. Her nomination stated “As a Vice President at Rivier, Karen’s expertise in marketing and fundraising has helped create a new chapter for the University. Her vision and leadership has propelled Rivier’s transition from a college to a university through its rebranding initiative, spreading the message that “Nashua is our home, the world is our classroom.”



Joanne Merrill, Director of Athletics, was named one of the 25 Extraordinary Women in Greater Nashua by *The Telegraph* in April. Merrill has been an educator, coach, and mentor to countless athletes during her career, and she has served the Rivier University community with dedication for 33 years. Inspired by her high school coach and mentor, Merrill pursued

a bachelor’s degree in physical education and health at the University of New Hampshire and went on to complete a master’s degree in athletic administration from Springfield College. As a valued member of the Rivier community, Merrill participated in visioning the \$2 million Muldoon Fitness Center and artificial turf field renovations while continuously developing Rivier’s vibrant student athletic programs.