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Announcement of Roger Williams College Name Change to Roger Williams University

Roger Williams University

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BRISTOL-- Reflecting the opening of the state of Rhode Island's first School of Law in August 1993, the Roger Williams College Board of Trustees has voted unanimously to change the name of the College to "Roger Williams University," effective immediately.

"By virtue of its historical commitment to comprehensive education and a mission which focuses on professional studies as well as the liberal arts, it is appropriate and timely for Roger Williams to adopt university status.

"The Board felt that this name change was appropriate, recognizing the fact that the College will, for the first time, be offering programs beyond the baccalaureate degree level," said Ralph R. Papitto, chairman of the Board.

The School of Law represents the first graduate-level program offered by the College, although a five-year major leading to a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture is included among its 34 undergraduate degree programs in eight Schools.

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The name change is not expected to change the College's mission as a primarily undergraduate teaching institution, although additional graduate-level programs may be considered in the future, said President Natale A. Sicuro.

Enrollment of the College, stabilized in recent years at approximately 3,800 students -- 2,100 full-time on the Bristol Campus and 1,700 part-time on the Bristol and Providence campuses -- is projected to grow slightly to a total of 4,600 students on both campuses when the School of Law enrolls all three classes in Fall 1995, according to Dr. Malcolm H. Forbes, vice president for academic affairs.

The College Plan for the 90s, the comprehensive master plan for the decade, calls for a total full-time undergraduate enrollment of 2,200 on the Bristol Campus and part-time enrollment of approximately 2,000 in Bristol and Providence. The School of Law, to be located on the Bristol Campus, will enroll about 400 full-time students in its day program and approximately 200 part-time students.

"The College will remain committed to offering individualized academic instruction and advisement, with small classes and student-faculty ratios of no more than 20:1 in most programs," Vice President Forbes concluded.

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