



NEWS RELEASE

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RACC Names Looney 6th President

Susan Looney, J.D., Ed.D., Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs/Provost, was named the 6th President of Reading Area Community College by the College's Board of Trustees this evening, marking the successful conclusion of a comprehensive national search. Dr. Looney joined RACC in 2014 as Dean of Instruction and was promoted to her current position in 2015. Dr. Looney earned her AA at Brookdale Community College and went on to earn a BS and MBA in business administration from Monmouth University, a JD from Widener University School of Law and an Ed.D. in higher education leadership from Nova Southwestern University. She succeeds Dr. Anna Weitz, who will retire on June 30, 2018 after 11 years as RACC's President.

Dr. Looney has served as a full time community college educator for the past 20 years. She started her teaching career as a full-time accounting faculty member at Mohave Community College in Arizona. While at Mohave she advised its Phi Theta Kappa chapter and received the Paragon award for outstanding new adviser in 2001. She returned to the east coast soon thereafter as a full-time faculty member teaching business administration at Delaware Technical Community College. While a faculty member at Delaware Technical Community College, she was honored with two awards that speak to her commitment to students in and outside the classroom: the Distinguished Advisor Award from Phi Theta Kappa and the Teaching in Excellence Award from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs.

"We are delighted to name Dr. Looney as RACC's next President," said Guido Pichini, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "Throughout her tenure, she has consistently demonstrated her passion for education, her commitment to our students and to this community. She is a tireless advocate for the community college system, a skilled administrator and, as a community college graduate herself, an ideal role model for our students. She has a keen sense of where RACC needs to go in the future and what we need to do to further encourage student success and community impact."

Dr. Looney has worked in very diverse roles in higher education including Corporate and Community Relations and Interim VP of Academic Affairs of Arts & Sciences. Prior to entering higher education Dr. Looney worked for the Department of Defense as an Operations Research Analyst, creating detailed planning and forecast models and briefing top U.S. Army officials and the House Appropriations Committee in Washington D.C. on budget and performance issues. Throughout her career, Dr. Looney has been significantly involved in team building, budgeting, strategic planning, assessment, community engagement, and fundraising. Dr. Looney is a resident of Wyomissing.

"Dr. Looney's tenure at RACC is best characterized as one of focus. She is deeply committed to the success of our students and has focused the staff on excellence, while using outcomes to inform next steps," said Dr. Anna Weitz. "She will serve RACC, our students and the community with distinction."

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