

Former Governor Donald DiFrancesco Conferred Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree

New Brunswick, NJ, May 17, 2007 –

Managing Partner and Former Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree at the 240th Anniversary Commencement at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, on May 17, 2007.

Fifty-first Governor of New Jersey and a long-time member of the State Senate, Donald T. DiFrancesco served the citizens of New Jersey for nearly 30 years. His career in public service began with his election to the New Jersey General Assembly in 1975. A November 1979 special election saw him elected to the State Senate, where he represented the 22nd Legislative District. In 1992, he was chosen to serve as President of the Senate, going on to set the record as the longest serving Senate President.

On January 31, 2001, following the resignation of Governor Christine Todd Whitman, he became the first New Jersey legislator since the 1947 amendments to the State Constitution to serve in the dual role of Governor and Senate President. Governor DiFrancesco served with distinction, providing New Jersey with outstanding leadership; particularly during the difficult period following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.



Right: Former Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco¹
Left: President Richard L. McCormick of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

A strong advocate for higher education throughout his career in public service, his efforts led to a vastly improved technology infrastructure, as well as key additions to, and improvements in, the capital facilities at New Jersey's higher education institutions. He also sponsored legislation to establish the New Jersey Better Educational Savings Trust, a state-managed program designed to encourage saving for college.

In 2003, he served as a guest lecturer at Rutgers' Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy where his years of

experience in state government and keen insight into the political process provided Rutgers students with an invaluable perspective on public service in the modern era.

Today, Governor DiFrancesco is the Managing Partner of the law firm of DiFrancesco, Bateman, Coley, Yospin, Kunzman, Davis & Lehrer, P.C. in Warren, New Jersey. He also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Commerce Bancorp, The New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce and Children's Specialized Hospital of Mountainside.

¹ Photographs by Steve Goodman