

Fitchburg State University Today

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Lapidus named Fitchburg State's 11th president



Dr. Richard S. Lapidus, dean of the College of Business Administration at California Polytechnic University, has been selected by the Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees to become the institution's 11th president.

The appointment, which followed a national search led by a 13-member committee, is contingent upon approval by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education at their meeting on Dec. 16.



Dr. Richard S. Lapidus

Lapidus was the board's unanimous choice. He is scheduled to assume the presidency on July 1, 2015. Pending BHE approval, he will succeed President Antonucci, who is retiring in June after 12 years at Fitchburg State. Antonucci's tenure has been marked by extensive capital investment in the campus, the launching of new academic programs and strengthened ties between the university and community.

The Board of Trustees voted on Lapidus' appointment on Dec. 11 following a series of two-day visits to the campus by the three finalists for the post. In addition to Lapidus, the finalists included Dr. Carol M. Bresnahan, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Rollins College in Florida and Dr. Beverly A. Kopper, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

"We are thrilled to have attracted such a talented and visionary educator as Dr. Lapidus," Board of Trustees

Chairman Carol T. Vittorioso said. "He has the leadership skills and experience to bring this already strong institution to the next level. He will be in the vanguard of academic leaders who are assuming new roles in a time of great challenge and opportunity for colleges and universities."

"This is an exciting time to join Fitchburg State," said Lapidus. "Thanks to the extraordinary accomplishments of President Antonucci, the university enjoys a formidable reputation in the region and the state. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the search committee and the Board of Trustees for the confidence they have placed in me. I am honored to have been chosen to lead this group of dedicated faculty, staff and students."

The new president brings a wealth of experience to the university as an administrator, researcher and a faculty member. He has published numerous articles and is a frequent presenter at conferences and symposiums.

"Richard stood out during our search process, strongly articulating a vision for the future of the university," said Vittorioso. "His energy and commitment to teaching and scholarship will be well received on campus and in the community."

Lapidus earned a bachelor's degree from the Indiana University, a master's degree in marketing from CSU Long Beach, a doctoral degree in marketing from the University of Nebraska and a certificate in management and leadership in education from Harvard Graduate School of Education. Before joining academia, Lapidus worked as an account manager for NCR Corporation in New York and as a sales representative for Moore Corporation in New York.

Lapidus began his current deanship in 2009. He was previously associate dean of administration and associate professor in the College of Business at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He also served as chair of the marketing department.

Ravenelle to be awarded President's Medal at Winter Commencement

Fitchburg State will hold its [winter commencement](#) ceremony on **Friday, Dec. 19** at 6:30 p.m. in the Athletics and Recreation Center, 130 North St.

The celebration will include the presentation of the President's Medal to Fitchburg Public Schools Superintendent Andre R. Ravenelle. During his nine years in Fitchburg, Ravenelle has maintained and improved a comprehensive academic and extracurricular program for more than 5,000 students, even through years of extensive budget reductions, by innovative restructuring and by securing alternate financing. Throughout his tenure in Fitchburg, he has improved overall student success through numerous improvements and additions to the educational opportunities available to Fitchburg public school students.



"Andre Ravenelle is a committed educator, always looking for opportunities to improve student outcomes," said Fitchburg State President Robert V. Antonucci. "Andre has been an enthusiastic collaborator with Fitchburg State and the city's students are the beneficiaries. We are honored to celebrate this partnership by recognizing Andre with this honor."

Andre R. Ravenelle

Fitchburg State University, holding its 118th commencement exercises this year, will confer approximately 120 graduate and 230 undergraduate degrees at the winter ceremony. The winter ceremony was established several years ago to allow students who complete their studies during the fall semester to graduate without having to wait for the May ceremonies.

Graduate and Continuing Education info session Tuesday, Jan. 6

Learn about the educational opportunities available at Fitchburg State University when the Office of [Graduate and Continuing Education](#) (GCE) hosts an information session on **Tuesday, Jan. 6** at 5 p.m.

The free session, where attendees will have the opportunity to speak with advisors, financial aid representatives and register for classes, will take place in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St. The snow date for the event is Thursday, Jan. 8.



GCE at Fitchburg State offers more than 45 graduate and undergraduate degree and certificate programs. Take the first steps toward achieving your educational goals and register for the information session today.

There will be special information sessions beginning at 5:30 p.m. for the LPN to BS in nursing bridge program, online RN to BSN, online MBA, Master of Science in Nursing (forensic); graduate special education (moderate, severe, guided studies, reading specialist and BCBA); education (early childhood, elementary and middle school); counseling; and educational leadership and management (a revised, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education-approved program meeting the latest state leadership standards and performance educators). Since the fall, all of the university's special education graduate programs are offered online. Come at 5:30 p.m. to meet the director of distance education to learn more about online programs.

Those who attend the information session who haven't yet applied for admission to Fitchburg State can have their \$25 admissions application fee waived for the spring or summer 2015 sessions.

Visit fitchburgstate.edu/gce/infosession to register for the information session or call (978) 665-3182 for more information.

Teaching opportunities in Graduate and Continuing Education, summer 2015

The Office of [Graduate and Continuing Education](#) has begun building the upcoming summer sessions for 2015. Faculty members interested in teaching should contact the appropriate department chair for approval.

The deadline for the department chairs to

submit course schedules to GCE is **Monday, Jan. 26**. Please feel free to contact Associate Dean [Brian Bercier](#) with any questions.



Speaker Series resumes in spring 2014-15

The Fitchburg State University Speakers Series has resumed for the academic year. All the talks will be held from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

On **Feb. 2, 2015**, Kisha Tracy (English Studies) will discuss "Maternal Lament and Misremembering" in the Center for Teaching and Learning.

On **March 2, 2015**, Luis Rosero (Economics, History and Political Science) will discuss "Sustainability of the Decline in Inequality in Latin America: The Effects of Changing Trade Patterns" in the Center for Teaching and Learning.

On **April 6, 2015**, Rob Carr, Jon Krasner and Randy Howe (Communications Media) will discuss "Human-Technology Interactivity and Agency in Media Environments" in the Center for Teaching and Learning.

And on **May 4, 2015**, Susan Wadsworth (Humanities) will discuss "Rocks and Ruins: An Artist's Sabbatical in the Southwest" in the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Community Read continues in January

Fitchburg State continues its year-long [Community Read](#) of legal scholar Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* with a screening of the classic film *In the Heat of the Night* (1967) on **Thursday, Jan. 15** at 4 p.m. at the [Fitchburg Public Library](#), 610 Main St. Admission is free.

The acclaimed film tells the story of an African-American police detective (played by Sidney Poitier) who is asked to investigate a murder in a racially hostile southern town. The film features an Oscar-winning performance by Rod Steiger. A discussion will follow the film screening, which is also part of the university's Third Thursday film series.

The New Jim Crow challenges the notion that the election of Barack Obama signals a new era of colorblindness. Alexander argues instead that racial caste in America has not been ended, just redesigned. The book explores the concept that the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control, relegating millions to a permanent second-class status.



Throughout the Community Read, Fitchburg State faculty and staff will join with experts and

artists from this region and beyond to explore the issues raised in the book. The public is invited to add their voices to the conversation as the university seeks to create community through communication. The series is sponsored by the Carl T. Witherell '32 fund.

Also in January, the art exhibit *Cell Block Visions* will be held in the Hammond Hall Art Gallery in Hammond Hall, 160 Pearl St., from **Wednesday, Jan 21** through **Wednesday, Feb. 18**. The exhibit is a lively collection of inmate artwork created behind bars from county jail to death row. This is a look at the alternative art world flourishing in today's American prisons. Inmates, having no previous training, turn to art for a sense of self-respect and a way to find peace.

Starting **Wednesday, Jan. 21**, the art gallery in the Sanders Administration Building will feature *The Inside/Outside Envelope Project* by artist Phyllis Kornfeld. Envelope art is a long-standing tradition in prison art, in which beautiful envelopes are sent to loved ones communicate a deep connection. *The Inside/Outside Envelope Project* is expanding that connection out into the human family. Hundreds of thousands of men and women sit uselessly behind steel doors, a vast resource of untapped human potential. Inmates from around the country have donated their envelope art to benefit the Read Alliance, which serves at-risk kindergarten and first-graders by recruiting and training teens to provide structured one-to-one tutoring in reading.

The month's events conclude **Wednesday, Jan. 28** at 3:30 p.m. with a screening of the film *Lost for Life* in Ellis White Lecture Hall in Hammond Hall. This documentary tells the stories of juveniles who are serving sentences of life in prison without possibility of parole, as well as their victims' families. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

The series continues on a lighter note with a performance by comedian W. Kamau Bell on **Thursday, Feb. 26** at 8 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall in the Conlon Fine Arts Building, 367 North St. Just like skinny jeans, superhero movies and celebrity weight loss, racism continues to make a comeback. Bell is here to make (non)sense of all of it all. *The W. Kamau Bell Curve: Ending Racism in About an Hour* is a hilarious exploration of the current state of America's racism, combined with a little (unknown) history, a little Powerpoint and a whole bunch of Kamau. *The Curve* is a seamless mix of stand-up comedy, video and audio clips, personal stories and solo theatrical performance. One part manifesto, one part diatribe and several parts funny, this evening is sure to provide laughs and provoke thought. Be advised, the performance features mature comment.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and Fitchburg State alumni and free for Fitchburg State students and can be purchased at the Weston Box Office, 333 North St., which is open Thursday and Friday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tickets can also be ordered [online](#).

A full listing of events, including film screenings and art installations running into the spring, can be found online at fitchburgstate.edu/communityread.



Archived editions of Fitchburg State University Today can be found online at <http://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices/administration/public-relations/fitchburg-state-university-today-archive>. For questions about Fitchburg State University Today, contact the Public Relations Office at (978) 665-4694. To submit to Fitchburg State University Today, visit the Public Relations site at www.fitchburgstate.edu/publicrelations and click on [Request for Publicity](#).

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