



**MCPHS**  
UNIVERSITY

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Richard J. Lessard Named Sixth President of MCPHS University**

Boston, October 7, 2020 – The MCPHS Board of Trustees has unanimously selected Richard J. Lessard as the sixth President of the University after an extensive eight-month national search. The appointment is effective immediately.

Lessard is widely regarded as a strategic and visionary leader with a deep knowledge of the healthcare education landscape, a natural ability to collaborate and build consensus, an approachable style, and a strong business management acumen that supports the long-term viability of the University.

Lessard joined MCPHS in 1998 and worked closely with past President Charles F. Monahan Jr., for the past two decades. His efforts have resulted in a program portfolio that grew from a singular focus on pharmacy at one building in Boston to more than 100 healthcare degrees and certificate programs at 30 buildings in three cities across two states as well as online. He clearly understands the significance of securing the institution's rich history and the importance of diversifying and strengthening programs to help meet the critical need for educating future healthcare providers.

He has a passionate dedication to the increasingly complex needs of the higher education community and has a thoughtful and empathetic approach. While he is steadfast in his commitment to strengthening MCPHS's campus-based educational foundation, he is immersed in the changing market dynamics and technological advances that provide an opportunity to expand healthcare education to a much wider audience.

As the Executive Vice President, Lessard has successfully led MCPHS through numerous previous transformations that have helped forge its position as the leading healthcare University it is today. In addition, as Interim President for the past nine months, he has provided strategic leadership during the current viral and racial pandemics. He has been a calming, thoughtful, and clear-headed leader and a stabilizing force for the entire University Community.

MCPHS's strong financial position, which Lessard has overseen for over 20 years, has put the University on a solid footing and has provided stability to its many stakeholders while allowing it to confidently address the challenges facing higher education.

Board of Trustees Chairman, Richard E. Griffin, said, "Rick has a clear vision of the course that the University needs to take to maintain its leadership position. Following a national search by Battalia Winston, he emerged as the best possible choice, not only for the work he did to achieve

unprecedented success for MCPHS over the last two decades, but also because of his passion for healthcare and higher education and his foresight and clarity as to how we will succeed in the future.”

Lessard’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion will also ensure that MCPHS and its Community members possess the self-awareness to comport themselves as compassionate healthcare educators and professionals and to address the disparities in our healthcare system amplified by the pandemics.

In his remarks, President Lessard said, “My approach will be to reinforce the attributes that are at the core of our identity and which serve to differentiate us from others. Our rich history, our global impact, our educational model based on real-world experience and collaborative education, and our exceptional value are all tremendous strengths that will serve as the foundation for our future successes. I will be unwavering in my efforts to implement our Strategic Plan and guide MCPHS into its third century as a global leader in healthcare education.”

#### About MCPHS

For 198 years, MCPHS has been educating future healthcare leaders. With campuses in Boston and Worcester, MA and Manchester, NH, the University’s singular focus on healthcare and its broad portfolio of undergraduate and graduate healthcare programs uniquely positions it to provide an innovative, inter-professional collaborative education that optimally prepares students to join the integrative team-based care models of today’s healthcare system. MCPHS has built deep-rooted relationships with many of the world’s leading medical centers, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, global health authorities, and research facilities, which provide its students with exceptional clinical rotations, internships, and research opportunities.

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