

CHAMPIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS CHAIR,
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*What led to your
commitment to
higher education
and university
governance?*

The importance of higher education was instilled in me at a very early age by my parents who consistently stressed the value and social significance of attaining both a secondary and post-secondary education. Growing up in a family that has always been involved in the advancement of civil rights it was strikingly evident that the historical denial of access to quality education directly contributed to the marginalization of various communities. It's a disparity which continues to negatively impact those communities to this very day. It is, therefore, by promoting access to higher education that society in general and those who have been directly impacted are better able to confront the institutional inequities including the achievement gap within education.

My interest in governance likely took hold during my student years at King's when I became involved in student government and served as the student union president. That experience provided valuable insight into the workings of an institution of higher education. It was also during this period that I became intrigued with the evolution and shift in university governance models and that's an interest I continue to hold to this day.

*What impresses
you the most about
today's students?*

I continue to be impressed with the degree of passion the King's students bring to their studies. Along with this they demonstrate an unwavering compassion and concern for others combined with an ever-increasing global awareness.

*What is your vision
for the role of universities
in the region's future?*

My vision is consistent with that set out in the Ivany Report. There is no doubt that as a region we will have numerous challenges to confront in the future. Through appropriate recognition and collaboration our universities and the Community College can serve as hubs for innovation and become, as stated in the report, the province's greatest competitive advantage. In order to fulfill that vision universities, as was noted in the ONE Nova Scotia Action Plan as an action point, "...need to enhance their institutional capacities to address the province's economic, social and cultural development needs." This is a vision which, if it is to have meaningful impact, at least from my perspective, must confront the institutional inequities within the province including, as I mentioned previously, the achievement gap within the education system.

