

**PANEL No. 1: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP | May 11, 2020 | 10 – 11:30 A.M.**

## PANELIST BIOS



### **STEFAN PRYOR**

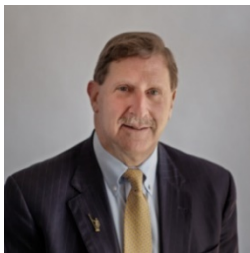
#### **Secretary of Commerce, State of Rhode Island**

Stefan Pryor serves as Rhode Island's first Secretary of Commerce. Appointed by Governor Gina M. Raimondo, he oversees and coordinates the state agencies and offices responsible for economic development, business regulation, housing, and workforce development. Rhode Island's economic progress under Governor Raimondo has been profiled by national publications including the *New York Times*. He has served as deputy mayor and director of economic and housing development in the City of Newark, NJ and as president of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC), created in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks to plan and help coordinate the physical rebuilding and economic revitalization of Lower Manhattan including the World Trade Center site. He also served as the commissioner of education for the State of Connecticut. Pryor received his undergraduate and law degrees from Yale University.



**RONALD K. MACHTLEY, President, Bryant University**

Bryant's president since 1996, the Honorable Ronald K. Machtley has led Bryant to unprecedented growth. Machtley's pivotal contributions in areas including academic excellence, enrollment, campus expansion, and technology have established an exceptional foundation for continued success. A practicing attorney, Machtley previously served as a United States Congressman representing Rhode Island. A 1970 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Machtley earned a Juris Doctorate from Suffolk University Law School. He served on active duty in the U.S. Navy and retired as a captain from the U.S. Naval Reserves in 1995 after 25 years of service. His civic engagement has included serving on the boards The Rhode Island Foundation and as the President of the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council. In 2011, he was recognized by the New England Board of Higher Education for exceptional leadership on behalf of higher education and the advancement of educational opportunity.



**NEIL D. STEINBERG, Bryant '15H, President and Chief Executive Officer, Rhode Island Foundation**

As President and Chief Executive Officer, Neil D. Steinberg leads the Rhode Island Foundation, which works to address the needs of Rhode Island's diverse communities through philanthropy, grantmaking, and community leadership. In 2018, with assets of approximately \$970 million, the organization raised \$114 million and distributed \$52 million in grants. Previously, Steinberg served as vice president of development at Brown University, his alma mater. He also worked for FleetBoston Financial, rising to the position of chairman and chief executive officer of Fleet Bank Rhode Island. His civic engagement includes serving as a director of the Providence Foundation, the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, the Providence Performing Arts Center, and the Urban League. A sought-after expert on philanthropy, the Rhode Island economy, community issues, and public education, *Providence Business News* named him one of the 30 Driving Forces of Rhode Island's business community in 2016. Steinberg holds an A.B. in Applied Mathematics from Brown University.



**ROSS GITTELL, PH.D., Economist and Chancellor, Community College System of New Hampshire; Incoming President, Bryant University**

Distinguished economist and economic development expert, Dr. Ross Gittell, the Chancellor of the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) since 2012 will succeed Ronald K. Machtley as Bryant University President in July 2020. Highly regarded in economic and policy circles for his economic analysis and forecasting, frequently served as an expert resource for government, non-profit, and business leaders regionally and nationally on such issues as economic policy, workforce development, and the business climate. He previously was the James R. Carter Professor in the Department of Management at the Whittemore School of Business and Economics at the University of New Hampshire. He also has taught at the New School for Social Research in Manhattan, and in the School of Education, Economics Department and Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Harvard University, an M.B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Chicago.