




TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Betty A. Rosa

SUBJECT: Appointment of Dr. Gemma C. Rinefierd to the position of Assistant Commissioner

DATE: April 4, 2024

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Dr. Gemma C. Rinefierd to the position of Assistant Commissioner for Student Support Services within the Office of Education Policy at the New York State Education Department?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Dr. Gemma C. Rinefierd possesses a distinguished record of leadership and accomplishment in higher education administration, with a particular emphasis on student affairs. Her background includes serving in senior roles directing programs aimed at enhancing student experiences and effectively managing intricate student cases. Her extensive experience in program management, policy insight, and fiscal oversight makes her uniquely qualified to contribute to the success of the Office of Student Support Services.

Dr. Rinefierd's tenure at the State University of New York (SUNY) System Administration, where she held multiple leadership positions, demonstrates her ability to manage complex initiatives and drive outcomes at a statewide level. As the Founding Director of the SUNY Student Conduct Institute, she developed and implemented a nationally recognized training program, showcasing her proficiency in supervising staff and providing direction to diverse stakeholders. Dr. Rinefierd's responsibilities in staff training, program design and oversight, and incident and crisis management highlight her diverse set of skills.

Furthermore, Dr. Rinefierd's expertise in budget planning, analysis, and oversight aligns seamlessly with the Assistant Commissioner's responsibility to oversee funding allocated to student support programs. Her track record of developing evidence-based recommendations and collaborating with stakeholders underscores her commitment to promoting school improvement and better outcomes for students across New York State.

Lastly, Dr. Rinefierd holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the University of Albany, a Master of Science in Higher Education Administration from Syracuse University, and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from the Margaret Warner School of Education and Human Development, University of Rochester.

Considering Dr. Rinefierd's outstanding qualifications and dedication to student welfare, her appointment as Assistant Commissioner for Student Support Services represents a strategic investment in the future success of the Office of Education Policy and the New York State Education Department as a whole.

Proposed Handling

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Dr. Gemma C. Rinefierd to the position of Assistant Commissioner for Student Support Services within the Office of Education Policy at the New York State Education Department.

Procedural History

Not applicable.

Background Information

Not applicable.

Related Regent's Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Dr. Gemma C. Rinefierd to the position of Assistant Commissioner for Student Support Services.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents approves the recommendation, the appointment will be effective April 15, 2024.