



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents
FROM: John King
SUBJECT: Appointment of Chief of External Affairs
DATE: July 18, 2011

AUTHORIZATIONS:

Executive Summary

Issue for Decision

Will the Board of Regents approve my appointment of Dennis Tompkins to the position and title of Chief of External Affairs?

Reason for Consideration

This position will report to the Executive Deputy Commissioner and will provide overall strategic leadership of the Department's external affairs. This position will include oversight of the Office of Communications and Governmental Relations and will coordinate cooperative development of Department policy, strategy and legislative proposals. Dennis Tompkins will bring to the Chief of External Affairs position extensive knowledge and experience in agency policy, communications and media relations. Mr. Tompkins is currently the Director of Communications for the State Comptroller since May 2007. Prior to that, he served as Director of Media Relations for New York State United Teachers, Press Secretary for the State Comptroller, and Deputy Press Secretary for the New York State Assembly. His experience in communication and relationships with the legislature will be an asset as he serves in this role.

Proposed Handling

The Board of Regents will review Mr. Tompkins' credentials and experience in Executive Session on July 18, 2011.

Recommendation

I recommend that you take the following action:

VOTED, that the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Dennis Tompkins to the position of Chief of External Affairs effective August 8, 2011.