

# Del. "Pete" Rawlings helps to shape higher education

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Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., governor of North Carolina, has announced that a group of nationally-known leaders — including Del. Howard "Pete" Rawlings, two governors, four CEOs of major corporations, several innovators in education, and a range of influential Americans — are joining forces to help shape higher education policy in the U.S.

The group will serve as the founding Board of Directors for the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, and will be chaired by Gov. Hunt.

The Board will oversee the work of the National Center, a newly-formed, independent, foundation-supported organization whose charge is to promote constructive state and federal policy change leading to increased opportunities for those seeking education and training beyond high school.

"I am delighted that Del.

Rawlings has agreed to join us in this effort," Gov. Hunt said.

"The future of our colleges and universities is a central concern of each of these business, government, civic and education leaders. I am gratified that such a distinguished group has come together to stimulate a national conversation about how higher education can continue to most effectively meet the needs of this nation. Americans who are motivated and able to benefit deserve opportunities for education and training beyond high school that

they and their families can afford. We're joining together to help America deliver on that promise."

The Hon. Howard "Pete"

Rawlings has been acknowledged as a champion of equity funding, public school accountability and higher education reorganization for over a decade. He was recently elected to a sixth term to the Maryland House of Delegates and is Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. He represents Maryland on the Education Commission of the States, serving as chair of its Policy and Priorities Committee and as a member of its National Task Force on Minority Achievement in Higher Education. In 1993-94, he served on the Governor's Task Force on Public School Construction and the Governor's Commission on Public School Funding. Since 1994, he has chaired the Committee on Postsecondary Education of the National Black Caucus of State Legislatures and served for many; hears as Education Chair of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus. He was instrumental in shaping the Higher Education Reorganization Bill of 1988. Currently, Del. Rawlings is a member of the Task Force to Study Governance, Coordination and Funding of the University System of Maryland and is a board member of the University of Maryland Medical System, the Maryland Institute College of Art, the School of Public Affairs of the University of Maryland and several other organizations.

Other national leaders on the Board are Clark Kerr, president emeritus, University of California; Ramon C. Cortines, executive director, Pew Network for Standards-Based School Reform, Stanford University, California; Dolores E. Cross, GE Fund Distinguished Professor of Leadership and Diversity, CUNY, New York; Thomas Ehrlich, California State University; Arturo Madrid Professor of Humanities, Trinity University,

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Texas; Robert H. McCabe, Senior Fellow League for Innovation in the Community College, Florida; Paul F. Miller, Jr., founding partner, Miller, Anderson & Sherred, Pennsylvania; John Brooks Slaughter, president, Occidental College, California; Virginia B. Smith, president emeriti, Vassar College; Uri Treisman, Professor of Mathematics, University of Texas at Austin; Harold M. Williams, president emeritus, J. Paul Getty Trust, California.

The president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education is Patrick M. Callan, who will also serve as a member of the board.

testimony before the task force begins deciding on recommendations.

"I think there will be some substantive discussion [on recommendations] at that next meeting," Larson said. The recommendations are supposed to be decided upon at a Dec. 22 meeting with the report due the first week of January, before the General Assembly convenes its 1999 session.

The task force was appointed last summer to study the governance of the state's public higher education institutions by the University System of Maryland — which oversees 11 public institutions, all but Morgan State and St. Mary's — and the Maryland Higher Education Commission, run by Florestano.

The system has drawn fire from campuses that seek greater autonomy in their budgeting and freedom from regulations.

"We are at the stage where we have collected all the information and identified the problems, but we have yet to set forward a set of solutions," said Sen. Robert R. Neall, an Anne Arundel Republican and a task force member.