

# John Nazarian

Honorary David E. Sweet  
Leadership Award



John Nazarian retires this year as the eighth President of Rhode Island College (RIC), after a 58-year affiliation with the College as student, teacher, and administrator. He was raised in Pawtucket, graduated from RIC in 1954 and went on to earn two A.M. degrees and a Ph.D. in 1967, while teaching in RIC's Mathematics Department. He later chaired the department, and was promoted to Vice President of Administration and Finance by President Sweet in 1977. He has served as President since 1990.

His Presidency has been characterized by strong fiscal stewardship, expansion and improvement of the campus, the successful completion of the College's first capital campaign, establishment of the School of Management and School of Nursing, strengthening of the School of Education and improvements to other academic programs, creation of a Presidential Scholars program, and advances in both academic and administrative technology.

Dr. Nazarian has been a member of numerous educational, civic and corporate boards, including major leadership roles. These include Chair of the RI Higher Education Association, Executive Committee of RI Campus Compact, Trustee of Boys and Girls Club of Pawtucket, and many others. His leadership includes regional and national roles as well, such as the RI representative to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and the Board of Advisors, NCCJ, RI/Southeastern New England Division.

President Nazarian's outstanding service has been recognized throughout his career with numerous awards and honors. In 2000, the Governor of Rhode Island, state General Assembly, and Board of Governors for Higher Education recognized his many contributions to higher education and to the College by naming the campus's Center for Performing Arts in his honor.