

Dr. Grace S. Jones
President Emerita, Three Rivers Community College

Grace Sawyer Jones served as President of Three Rivers Community College from 2001 to 2014. She returned to New England after serving as President of the College of Eastern Utah from 1996 to 2001. Her previous positions were in the Berkshires of Massachusetts at Berkshire Community College as faculty, administrator for student activities and Director of Human Resources and Affirmative Action. She also held the position of Assistant Superintendent of Pittsfield Public Schools for two year. In accepting this position, she acknowledged a legacy of her family that actively pursued the desegregation of public schools through Brown v Education in Topeka, Kansas, her place of birth.

At Three Rivers Grace led the merger of two college facilities into one. While Thames Valley Technical College and Mohegan Community College was merged through legislation in 1992, the combining of campuses did not. After much debate and negotiation the College was created with the official opening in 2008. The College enjoys a state-of-the-art facility that served 5,000 students in its beginning years. As the community's college, community organizations were welcomed for meetings and programs.

Three Rivers academic reputation brought approximately a dozen four year college and universities both public and private to form transfer agreements for our college graduates. We also worked diligently to support students financially to keep them debt free when they graduated. Available financial aid and scholarships provided the attendant support for students in need. The College Foundation endowment grew through a major gifts campaign to support more scholarships for students.

Grace's participation in regional organizations brought additional attention to the College. She served on the Backus Hospital Board of Directors, the Eastern Workforce Investment Board, Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, Liberty Bank Board of Directors and many community organizations.

Perhaps her greatest accomplishment was the creation of Three Rivers Middle College. The region's high school juniors and seniors came to the College to complete high school requirements and begin college courses at the same

time. This provided a seamless experience for students to begin their further education, especially for students who may not have seen college as an option. It was and is highly successful.

In her retirement Dr. Jones continues involvement as a Commissioner for Norwich Public Utilities, a limited membership at the Kettering Foundation, a national think tank, and with the church, St. James Episcopal Church, New London. She also enjoys travel, time with family members around the country, and having the discretion to follow her muse.