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Speaker Biography
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The Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education

Stephen J. Reno

Stephen J. Reno has served as chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire since August 2000. As such, he is responsible for two universities and two colleges that together serve over 30,000 degree-seeking students and also provide direct services to an additional 40,000 residents of the state of New Hampshire. Previous administrative and teaching appointments include president of Southern Oregon University (1994-2000); provost and dean of faculty, Southern Oregon University (1989-1994); associate provost, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Southern Maine (1980-1989); visiting scholar, Center for the Study of World Religion, Harvard University (1979-1980); and Lecturer in the Study of Religion and Senior Tutor, Faculty of Arts, University of Leicester, United Kingdom (1970-1979). Dr. Reno holds the AB in philosophy from St. John's College (California), and the MA and PhD degrees in religious studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara. His academic interests and publications are in the areas of comparative symbolism, mythology and ritual. Dr. Reno is the author of The Sacred Tree: A Phenomenological Study, and more recently, co-editor of the forthcoming The Myths of Korea. His professional activities include involvement with The Salzburg Seminar, committee service with the American Academy of Religion and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and service as commissioner of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges. Within New Hampshire, he serves as head of the New Hampshire Delegation to the New England Board of Higher Education, vice chair of the New Hampshire Forum on Higher Education, member, Board of Trustees of New Hampshire Public Radio, member, Board of Directors, Business Industry Association, and member, Assembly of Overseers, Mary Hitchcock Hospital, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Dr. Reno is an Honorary Fellow of University College, Winchester (United Kingdom).

Dr. Reno is married to Catherine Royce Motley Reno. They have two children, Matthew and Catherine. Dr Reno's interests also include running, cooking, and fly-fishing.