



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Bob Ricci, BankRI Vice President and Cumberland Resident,
Joins Read to Succeed Board of Directors**

Committed to addressing the achievement gap, Read to Succeed awards annual scholarships towards college to low-income Providence students who read six books during summer vacation

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – With a personal interest in helping youth with limited opportunities achieve the dream of a college education, Bob Ricci, a Vice President with **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** and resident of Cumberland, has joined the Board of Directors of Read to Succeed.

As an innovative literacy and college scholarship initiative, Read to Succeed launched in 2008 and has provided more than \$153,000 in scholarships to Providence students to-date. According to research, nearly all students lose up to two months of literacy skills during the summer when not engaged in reading. Read to Succeed works to reverse this by giving students free books and a powerful incentive to read during summer vacation.

For students who participate in the program and complete six books, they're able to earn a \$1,000 scholarship deposit in their name into the Rhode Island CollegeBound*fund* for up to five consecutive summers. The program is offered for free to students, parents, and schools.

"It's a privilege to have an opportunity to give back to an organization whose work has the power to change young lives in such a meaningful way for the future," said Bob. "Every child deserves the chance for a college education—Read to Succeed not only helps them realize that opportunity exists, they also put them on a path to make it a reality; I'm excited to be a part of it."

In addition to his involvement with Read to Succeed, Bob also sits on the Board of the Rhode Island Ovarian Cancer Alliance and previously served on the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Warwick. Bob and his wife Donna live in Cumberland, and have two children, Talia, 24, and Brendan, 22.

About Bank Rhode Island

Bank Rhode Island, a wholly owned subsidiary of Brookline Bancorp, Inc. (NASDAQ:BRKL), is a full-service, FDIC-insured financial institution headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island. The bank operates 19 branches and more than 55 ATMs throughout Providence, Kent and Washington Counties. For more information, visit www.BankRI.com. You can also find BankRI on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BankRhodeIsland.

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