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Sherry Penney is the “Sherry H. Penney Professor of Leadership” in the College of Management at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Dr. Penney previously served as the Chancellor of UMass Boston, 1988-2000. She also served as interim president of the University of Massachusetts in 1995 and interim president of SUNY Plattsburgh 1986-1987. She brings her experience of over 13 years as a CEO to her position in an endowed professorship of leadership.

From 1982-88, she was the first female vice chancellor in the SUNY system office (64 campuses and 400,000 students) serving as Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs. She was Associate Provost at Yale University 1976-82. She has taught at Union College, Yale University, SUNY Albany, and the University of Massachusetts Boston.

She serves on several boards, including TERI (The Education Resource Institute), which she chairs. She is on the Board of Trustees of HERS (Higher Education Resource Services), the Board of Directors of South Shore Hospital and on the board of the International Leadership Association. She served on the NSTAR (Fortune 1000 company) board for twenty years, retiring in 2010.

Previously she has served on the boards of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, the New England Council, the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, the Boston Plan for Excellence in the Public Schools, the Private Industry Council, the Boston Coalition, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, the New England Aquarium, the Environmental Business Council, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, the American Council on Education and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) where she also served as Chair of the Board. She was also a member of the Governor’s International Trade Task Force (1995-96) and of the Governor’s Council for Economic Development (1995-2000).

She has received honorary degrees from Albion College in Michigan and from Quincy College in Massachusetts. She has received several awards including the Pinnacle Award for lifetime achievement from the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, the New England Women’s Leadership Award, the Distinguished Citizen Award for Racial Harmony from Black/White Boston, the College Club Award, and the Abigail Award from the Massachusetts Women’s Political Caucus.

She is the co-author of *Next Generation Leadership: Insights from Emerging Leaders* (Palgrave/MacMillan, 2010) with Patricia Neilson, and the author of *Patrician in Politics* (Kennikat, 1994) dealing with New York politics in the 19th Century. She is co-author with James D. Livingston of a biography of the 19th century feminist and abolitionist Martha Coffin Wright titled *A Very Dangerous Woman: Martha Wright and Women’s Rights* (UMass Press, 2004).

With colleague Patricia Neilson she edited *Voices of the Future: Emerging Leaders* in 2009 (UMass Boston.)

In 1990 with Nancy Kelly she wrote, "Why Not a Fifty-Fifty Goal? Increasing Female Leadership in Higher Education," in the *New England Journal of Public Policy* (Volume 6). In 2007 she served as guest editor for the *New England Journal's* special issue on Women. Her article with Jennifer Brown and Laura Oliveira was entitled, "Numbers Are Not Enough: Women in Higher Education," (Volume 22). She also has published several other articles and book reviews in professional journals and opinion editorials in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Boston Herald*, and the *Patriot Ledger*.

She is a frequent speaker on topics related to leadership, women in higher education, and governance issues in both the corporate and nonprofit sectors.