

# Staten Island Advance



\$1.50 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018

BREAKING & LOCAL NEWS AT [silive.com](http://silive.com)



**Dr. Richard Guarasci in 2014. He is Wagner College's longest-serving president.**

*Jan Somma-Hammel,  
Staten Island Advance*

WAGNER COLLEGE

## Prexy Guarasci sets retirement, 17 months out

### Long lead time facilitates board's nationwide search

**Claire Regan** *For the Staten Island Advance*

Dr. Richard Guarasci, the longest-serving president in the history of Wagner College, announced Tuesday that he will retire from the position in June of next year.

The announcement, which was made during a faculty meeting in Spiro Hall, was not unexpected in many circles on the Grymes Hill campus. Guarasci, who turned 72 this month, was named president in 2002, five years after joining Wagner as provost and vice president for academic affairs.

But the timing of the announcement, more than 17 months before his departure,

**SEE GUARASCI, A6**

## GUARASCI

FROM A1

was a surprise to some.

"We're in a really good place; there is financial stability," he told the assemblage of 100 or so faculty members and administrators.

"I wanted to make sure we had an orderly process for succession and the search."

Guarasci is the 18th person to head Wagner on a permanent basis but only the 12th to serve as its president — a title the college only began using after its move from upstate Rochester to Grymes Hill in 1918.

As provost, Guarasci created the college's signature curriculum, the Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts, which combines academics with practical application. Through learning communities, reflective tutorials and

internships, students get hands-on experience outside the classroom.

His accomplishments as president include the construction of the Foundation Hall residence; the exterior restoration of 88-year-old Main Hall, and an increase in the college's endowment from \$4 million to \$98.7 million.

A Brooklyn native, Guarasci holds a bachelor of science degree from Fordham University, and a master's degree in economics and a doctoral degree in political science from Indiana University.

Before joining Wagner, he served as dean at Hobart College in upstate Geneva, and as dean and founding director of the first-year program at St. Lawrence University in upstate Canton.

The board of trustees is preparing to begin a national search for his successor.



*Staten Island Advance*

**"We're in a really good place; there is financial stability."**