Red Sox Great Curt Schilling to Deliver New England Tech’s 2011 Commencement Address

CCRI President Ray DiPasquale to be Honored

WARWICK, RI - Former Red Sox pitcher and video game entrepreneur Curt Schilling will deliver the commencement address to New England Institute of Technology graduates on Sunday, May 1, 2011 in Providence. Schilling is best known for leading the Boston Red Sox to their first World Series Championship in 86 years. He did that in 2004, pitching 21 winning games during the season. He repeated the accomplishment in 2007 when the Sox won a second World Series Championship.

Schilling is a three time World Series Champion, having led the Arizona Diamondbacks to a win in 2001. He played for five different teams during his prolific 20 year career, racking up numerous awards for his outstanding play. He recorded 3,116 strikeouts, the 15th most in Major League Baseball history, and is one of only two pitchers in league history to win a World Series after the age of 40.

Schilling announced his retirement from baseball on March 23, 2009 and has since been making headlines as an entrepreneur. He started an entertainment and IP creation company called 38 Studios with offices in Massachusetts and Maryland. The company is in the process of relocating its Massachusetts studio to Rhode Island and anticipates creating hundreds of jobs in the Ocean State. “Curt Schilling bats right, throws right, and has the right formula for success,” said Richard Gouse, President of New England Institute of Technology. “He is renowned for his intense preparation skills and focus and we look forward to having him speak to our graduates.”

Schilling is also known for his philanthropic work. He and his wife Shonda are longtime supporters and fundraisers of the ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) Association and have raised more than ten million dollars for the cause. The Schillings recently served as honorary co-chairs for the Meeting Street School Telethon in Providence, helping to raise $783,066. 38 Studios also pledged matching funds during the event. In 2007, the Schillings began supporting the Asperger's Association of New England when their son Grant was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome. Curt also penned the introduction to Shonda's 2010 New York Times best-selling book about the Autism Spectrum disorder, The Best Kind of Different, Our Family's Journey with Asperger's Syndrome. They have also worked to increase awareness of melanoma in an effort to help eradicate it through education and the SHADE Foundation.

Schilling will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters during New England Tech's commencement.

An honorary degree will also be awarded to CCRI President Ray Di Pasquale in recognition of his inspirational public service which serves as an example for New England Tech students. An educator with a career spanning 35 years, Di Pasquale was appointed commissioner of higher education for the state of Rhode Island in 2009, in addition to his duties as president of the college. During his years in higher education, Di Pasquale has held positions that range from teaching to director of athletics and director of admissions. He served as vice president for enrollment management and student affairs and as interim vice president for institutional advancement at the State University of New York's College at Brockport in upstate New York. He is credited with dramatically increasing freshmen applications and improving first-year student retention.

Di Pasquale makes time to take an active role in his community. He served as vice chairman of the Springfield, Massachusetts School Committee and as chairman for the Hampden County Commissioners. He was also elected to the Springfield City Council.
Since coming to Rhode Island, Di Pasquale has held leadership positions with the Newport Chamber of Commerce, is Chair of the Rhode Island Campus Compact Executive Committee, is a member of the MET School Board, the Governor's Workforce Board, the Rhode Island Commodores, the Special Legislative Commission on Defense Economy Planning, and is a Kent Hospital incorporator. New England Tech will present Di Pasquale with an honorary doctor of humane letters during commencement.

This year marks New England Institute of Technology’s 70th commencement ceremony. More than a thousand students will receive associate or bachelor’s degrees. Commencement begins at 11 a.m. at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island.

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