May 12, 2015

Members of the Rutgers University Community:

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Jonathan Potter has been appointed Dean of the School of Communication and Information, effective August 1, 2015. Dr. Potter is an enthusiastic and engaged educator, who has a distinguished record in administration and an international reputation for his research at the intersection of Communication, Psychology and Language. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my warm thanks to Dr. Claire McInerney, who has served as the Interim Dean of the School of Communication and Information since July 2013 and proven a steady and strong leader.

Dr. Potter, who has been at Loughborough University since 1986, became Head of their Department of Social Sciences in 2010 and founding Dean of a new School of Social, Political and Geographical Sciences in the following year. He successfully guided the School through the financial turbulence following the global financial crisis and the removal of Government funding for Social Sciences students, and he presided over a major improvement in research quality, leaving it in an outstanding second position in the UK.

Dr. Potter earned his undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Liverpool, his masters degree in Philosophy of Science from the University of Surrey, and his DPhil in Sociology from University of York. Before his move to Loughborough University, he taught in the Psychological Laboratory at the University of St Andrews.

Over his significant research career, Dr. Potter has addressed fundamental issues of theory and method, as well as making substantial research contributions on the nature of cognition in communication. His 1987 book developed a new way of thinking about social psychology and continues to be widely influential. His work as a whole has received nearly 30,000 citations, and he has sat on more than 20 editorial boards. Dr. Potter is frequently invited to speak and to run workshops at major institutions around the world.
I would also like to thank the members of the Search Committee, led by Dean George B. Stauffer, for their hard work and dedication. Thanks to their efforts, the School of Communication and Information is poised to move forward quickly with an outstanding dean who is a proven administrative, scholarly, and international leader. I look forward to working with him to further advance the mission of the School. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Jonathan Potter to Rutgers University.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Edwards, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Chancellor, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Jonathan Potter, Ph.D.