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John Flaherty 2012

June 07, 2012 - Rhode Island

Name: John Flaherty

Title: Director of Research & Communications

Company: Grow Smart Rhode Island

Location: 235 Promenade St., Suite 500, Providence, RI 02908

Place of birth: Pawtucket

Family: Wife and three daughters

College: Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada); University of Rhode Island

First job unrelated to your current field: Sales and marketing - Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau

First job in current field: This one

What your firm does now and its plans for the future?: Now: Local NGO leader in public policy research and advocacy related to efficient and sustainable economic growth and development.

Future: Help Rhode Island's civic and business leaders to pursue a prosperity agenda that more fully capitalizes on the state's many natural, built and institutional assets.

Hobbies: Gardening, cooking, news.

Favorite film: Lawrence of Arabia

Keys to success: Follow your passion. Be polite and respectful. Play well with others in the sandbox and don't run with scissors.

Person you most admire (outside of family): My good friend Ted: Smart, unassuming, compassionate, principled (even when we disagree), always does the right thing.

If you had to choose a different profession, what would it be?: Philanthropist

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