



# Richard V. Piacentini

## President and CEO

**Richard V. Piacentini** is the president and CEO of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, one of America's oldest and largest conservatories. Since 1994 he has guided the Pittsburgh organization from public to private management and is responsible for the green transformation of its facilities and operations, including: the construction of the first LEED® certified visitor center in a public garden; the first LEED certified greenhouses (LEED Platinum EBOM); the Tropical Forest Conservatory, one of the most energy-efficient in the world; and the Center for Sustainable Landscapes, a net-zero energy and water building and the only building to meet the Living Building Challenge, LEED Platinum, 4 Stars Sustainable SITES™, and Platinum WELL® Building certifications.

The sustainability efforts Piacentini initiated at Phipps are based on recognizing the vital connections between people, plants, health and the planet. This systems-based way of thinking influences all of the organization's actions and programs, particularly those focused on awakening children to nature, and promoting human and environmental well-being. Additionally, Piacentini cofounded Let's Move Pittsburgh, a program based on First Lady Michelle Obama's national *Let's Move!* Campaign, to improve children's health in the region.



Piacentini serves on the board of the International Living Future Institute as a past board chair and secretary, He also serves on the Biophilic Cities Advisory Board, Biophilic Design Initiative Advisory Committee and on the Mission and Community Needs Committee for Magee-Womens Hospital. He is a Past President, Treasurer and Green Buildings and Landscapes Committee founding chair of the American Public Gardens Association (APGA).

Piacentini is the recipient of the following awards:

- 2017 CEO of the Year Award, Pittsburgh Business Times
- 2016 Smart 50 Business Award
- 2016 Regenerative Business Award, Regenerative Business Alliance
- 2015 University of Rhode Island Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award
- 2015 Finalist for Place by Design, SXSW eco, Austin, TX
- 2015 EBie Award, Urban Green Council, NYC
- 2015 Finalist, Celebration of Champions Award
- 2014 Legacy Award, Green Building Alliance
- 2014 Catalyst Award, 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Carnegie Science Awards
- 2014 Who's Who in Energy, Pittsburgh Business Times
- 2014 Trustee Award, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania
- 2013 Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award, University of Connecticut
- 2013 Who's Who in Energy, Pittsburgh Business Times
- 2013 Energy Leadership Award, Pittsburgh Business Times
- 2013 Media Partner of the Year Award, Visit Pittsburgh
- 2012 Living Building Hero Leadership Award, International Living Future Institute (ILFI)
- 2011 Great American Gardener Award, American Horticultural Society (AHS)
- 2011 Service Award, American Public Gardens Association (APGA)
- 2010 Individual Leadership Award in an NGO, US Green Building Council (USGBC)
- 2009 Sustainable Champion Award, American Society of Interior Designers, W. PA
- 2009 Fred E. Obley Award for Business Leadership and Excellence
- 2009 Environmental Hero Award, GASP
- 2009 Leading Pittsburgh Award, KDKA Radio
- 2008 Environmental Award, 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Carnegie Science Awards
- 2008 Diamond Award, CEO of the Year Nonprofit Category, Pittsburgh Business Times
- 2008 Travel & Tourism Advocate of the Year, VisitPittsburgh
- 2006 Shades of Green Leadership Award, Green Building Alliance
- 2006 W3 Silver Award Winner
- 1998 Professional Citation, American Public Gardens Association

Piacentini holds a Master of Science degree in Botany from the University of Connecticut, a Master of Business Administration degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy from the University of Rhode Island. He is a registered Pharmacist in Washington, D.C. and is a WELL Accredited Professional.