Promising sweeping changes, and confident he will succeed

The university has to change," says Barchi, who has already made a significant impact. He has been able to find the necessary financial resources. It's happening, every day. Schools are closing because they are running on the old model. The schools that will be on top of the wave are the schools that evolve, that change, that react to the times."

"I'm a problem solver. That's what I do. That's what I love to do."

Robert L. Barchi, who will become Rutgers University's next president in September

Barchi says he recognizes that resistance may come from outside the university, from other institutions in a state that has no coordinating agency that prevents colleges and schools from fighting over duplicative programs and scarce funds. His answer—the president of Rutgers, as the "flagship" public university of New Jersey, should be to change. "You have to have some sort of coordination—one of the roles of the president of Rutgers should be to play the lead role of the council of presidents."

"I've been able to stand up for the university, for the state, and for the students. I've been able to make a difference."