

NEWS

Office of the Governor

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ALMOND ANNOUNCES RI QUARTER VOTED BEST TRADE COIN IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

*Coin featuring Narragansett Bay scene one of ten
 finalists for "Coin of the Year"*

Governor Lincoln Almond today announced that the Rhode Island quarter released under the US Mint's 50 State Quarters program has been voted the world's best trade coin of the year 2001 in an international competition organized by *World Coin News*. The category covers all coins issued for general circulation. The Rhode Island quarter is also now one of ten finalists for "Coin of the Year". One other US coin, the silver American Buffalo dollar, is a finalist, along with entries from Australia, Belgium, China, France, Gibraltar and Russia. A panel of judges will determine the "Coin of the Year" on January 6, 2003.

"This is a great honor, not only for the designers of the quarter, but for all Rhode Islanders who took part in the process of selecting this theme," said Almond. "The 50 State Quarters program has given us the opportunity to share our unique heritage with the nation, and now the world."

Almond directed The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, and its executive director, Randall Rosenbaum to closely involve Rhode Islanders in determining the final design. In April of 1999, more than 500 design concepts were submitted to the Rhode Island Coin Concept Selection Panel which selected four submission to the US Mint for consideration. In June of 2000, the US Mint returned three design possibilities: one featuring a vintage sailboat on Narragansett Bay; the second, a depiction of artist Gilbert Stuart; and the third, a depiction of Roger Williams meeting a Native American. Statewide balloting was held that month to determine the final design. Narragansett Bay captured 57 percent of the 34,566 votes cast.

The quarter was officially released to the public in ceremonies at Fort Adams State Park in Newport on May 21, 2001.