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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MAY 4TH OF 2023, TO BE "COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND DAY"

Introduced By: Senators Cano, Gallo, Burke, Raptakis, and Tikoian

Date Introduced: May 04, 2023

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS The United States' Community Colleges, often called Junior Colleges, are
2 usually two-year programs that prepare students to either enter the workforce or continue their
3 education at a four-year college or university; and

4 WHEREAS, The Community College Of Rhode Island (CCRI) was founded in 1964 as
5 the Rhode Island Junior College. Its first class consisted of 325 students who attended the Henry
6 Barnard School in Providence. In 1965, a section of the old Brown & Sharpe building was used
7 for classroom space and as the primary facility until 1972; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1972, the Knight Campus in Warwick, donated by the Knight Estate,
9 became CCRI's flagship campus and first permanent building. In the ensuing years, new
10 campuses were opened in Lincoln, Providence, Newport, and Westerly; and

11 WHEREAS, CCRI is the largest Community College in New England, serving more than
12 40,000 Rhode Islanders each year and has more than 80,000 alumni. Thanks to the outstanding
13 leadership provided by President, Dr. Meghan Hughes, and Dr. Rosemary Costigan, Vice
14 President of Academic Affairs, CCRI had its highest graduation rates in more than twenty years,
15 outpacing national junior college two- and three-year graduation rates. CCRI is also working
16 fervently and tirelessly to close the equity performance gap. In recognition of this success, in
17 2019, CCRI was named the two-year college of the year by Education Dive magazine; and

18 WHEREAS, President Hughes advocated tirelessly in support of a free tuition program at
19 CCRI, and this program has become a model for other initiatives across the nation. In merely

1 three years, the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship program has resulted in a 15 percent increase
2 in the college student rate in Rhode Island with an attendant 146 percent increase in students of
3 color and a 71 percent increase in the enrollment of low-income students; and

4 WHEREAS, Thanks to President Hughes's leadership, CCRI recently attained its first-
5 ever million-dollar donation to create Program Plus and CCRI also attained a 1.7 million-dollar
6 federal Title III grant to support its "Promoting Pathways to Progress" program to improve degree
7 completion; and

8 WHEREAS, In her duties as the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Rosemary
9 Costigan is the Chief Academic Officer of CCRI and is responsible for advancing the institution's
10 educational initiatives and goals, and for providing leadership, support and vision regarding
11 faculty development, educational policy, program review and institutional planning. To further
12 CCRI's mission, Dr. Costigan works closely with and has forged close relationships with
13 administrators, academic deans, members of the faculty and all CCRI stakeholders to ensure that
14 it offers the best possible education and community support to all of its students; now, therefore
15 be it

16 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby proclaims May 4th of
17 2023, to be "Community College of Rhode Island Day" in the State of Rhode Island; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
20 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Dr. Meghan Hughes, President, Community
21 College of Rhode Island and Dr. Rosemary Costigan.

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