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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

**CELEBRATING MAY 2, 2024, AS "RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE DAY" IN THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators Lawson, and Raptakis

Date Introduced: May 02, 2024

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Established by the General Assembly in 1854, and originally named the
2 "Rhode Island State Normal School", Rhode Island College (RIC) is a public college located in
3 the City of Providence and is the second oldest institution of higher education in Rhode Island;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Comprised of a 180-acre campus, RIC has 360 full-time faculty members,
6 and a student body of close to 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offers eight
7 baccalaureate degree programs in over 76 areas of specialization, eight graduate degree programs
8 in some 46 areas of specialization, and a doctoral program in education and nursing practice; and

9 WHEREAS, In addition, RIC offers programs and classes in professional and workforce
10 development, continuing and adult education, and community programs and initiatives "that
11 empower our citizens and strengthen our communities"; and

12 WHEREAS, RIC also offers a panoply of athletic opportunities as a member of the
13 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) with 21 varsity sports, with 9 men's sports
14 teams and 12 women's sports teams; and

15 WHEREAS, Earning recognition throughout New England for its excellence, RIC was
16 named one of the "Top 10 Best Value Public Colleges in New England" in 2021, and was ranked
17 #1 for social mobility among public regional universities in New England, according to the 2022
18 U.S. News and World Report; and

19 WHEREAS, Rhode Island College is now on the cutting edge of programs in cyber

1 security and artificial intelligence, allowing its students opportunities to find meaningful and
2 lucrative work in these critical fields, such programming will also ensure that our State, as well as
3 our nation, will have the needed expertise in these emerging technological fields; and

4 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's motto Hope, became reality for Rhode Island residents in the
5 fall of 2023, as the college initiated the Hope scholarships, which will benefit its students seeking
6 a 4-year degree; and

7 WHEREAS, Dreams are personified in the Class of 2024 graduates as the College will
8 recognize the first graduating class of Bachelor of Professional Studies. These adult learners can
9 fulfill bigger aspirations for their families and their families' futures, living up to their #1 rank for
10 social mobility among public regional universities in New England, according to the 2022 U.S.
11 News and World Report; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby celebrates May 2,
13 2024, as "Rhode Island College Day" and thanks the College and staff for the significant
14 contributions they provide to the citizens of our State; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Jack R. Warner, President of Rhode Island
17 College.

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