

2024 -- H 8140

LC005752

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 4TH OF 2024, TO BE "COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND DAY"

Introduced By: Representatives Noret, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Bennett, Cruz, Felix, Shallcross Smith, Voas, and Finkelman

Date Introduced: April 04, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

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 and Newport; and

11 WHEREAS, CCRI is the largest public institution of higher education in Rhode Island,
12 serving more than 40,000 Rhode Islanders each year and having more than 80,000 alumni; and

13 WHEREAS, Thanks to the outstanding leadership provided by Interim President, Dr.
14 Rosemary Costigan, the first alumna to lead the college, CCRI continues to provide Rhode
15 Islanders with a high-quality college education that leads to strong learning outcomes, successful
16 degree attainment and robust labor market outcomes; and

17 WHEREAS, With a passionate commitment to student success and closing equity gaps,
18 CCRI was named two-year college of the year by Education Dive magazine in 2019 and earned a
19 designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution in 2022; and

1 WHEREAS, CCRI has become the leading provider of skilled trades training in the State;
2 including as the primary training partner of General Dynamics Electric Boat and the home to the
3 only Global Wind Organization Basic Safety Training Center in Rhode Island, training workers to
4 build the nation’s first large-scale offshore wind farm; and

5 WHEREAS, Due to the College’s close partnership with Electric Boat, CCRI has been
6 designated as the only U.S. Department of Transportation Center of Excellence for Domestic
7 Maritime Workforce Training and Education in New England; and

8 WHEREAS, CCRI is one of only 17 community colleges nationwide to be designated an
9 Industrial Assessment Center by the U.S. Department of Energy and is a National Security
10 Agency-designed National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense; and

11 WHEREAS, CCRI is the leading provider of full- and part-time dual enrollment
12 programs. Enrollment in High School Enrichment, Running Start and Accelerate has increased
13 100% since 2016 and PTECH, has produced more than 30 students who graduated from the
14 college before their high school graduation; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Rosemary Costigan came to the role of Interim President after serving in
16 multiple capacities throughout a distinguished career at CCRI, including faculty chair, dean and
17 Vice President for Academic Affairs; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Costigan, being the first in her family to attend college, serves as a
19 mentor and an example of what is possible with a CCRI education for all students, especially
20 first-generation college students; and

21 WHEREAS, In her duties as Interim President, Dr. Costigan is advancing CCRI’s key
22 initiatives and goals on behalf of students, faculty and staff and has forged close relationships
23 with all CCRI stakeholders to ensure that the college offers the best possible education and
24 community support to all of its students; now, therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
26 proclaims April 4th of 2024, to be “Community College of Rhode Island Day” in the State of
27 Rhode Island; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
29 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dr. Rosemary Costigan, Interim President,
30 Community College of Rhode Island.

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