

Message from the President...

I hope all of you are able to take some much needed time off during the summer months. Before we know it, the fall term will be getting started! This edition of the newsletter will be brief; however, I wanted to share the feedback the members provided about our annual retreat.

The one question that I would like to address from the feedback relates to budgets. PSA has two formal meetings per year, plus, special meetings as necessary. Our annual October meeting is the business meeting, information regarding budgets, dues, expenses, etc., are discussed and voted on by the membership. The summer meeting is for a social gathering/networking opportunity, general union/college updates, etc. This meeting does not have a budget review/approval component; I hope this helps clarify the difference between our gatherings.

In closing, I am hoping that you will enjoy our new feature, **"Get to Know PSA"**. This section will highlight different PSA members, so we can all get to know one another better. Trust me, I hate pictures, however, I realized I could not ask all of you to contribute, if I was not willing to participate 😊

Respectfully, Jude



Training & Development...

Visit the HR website for a variety of trainings open to all employees

<http://www.ccri.edu/hr/training/training-development.html>

Thank you...

To all the PSA members that have participated in the special enrollment days & the Student Affairs Retreat!

Summer in Rhode Island...

Summer Events:

<https://www.providencejournal.com/special/20190525/2019-rhode-island-summer-guide-fairs-and-festivals>

Beaches in RI:

<https://www.visitrhodeisland.com/things-to-do/beaches/>

*Get to Know PSA...***John Bento Araujo**

John was born on July 20, 1981 in Pawtucket, Rhode Island as a first generation Portuguese American graduated from Charles E. Shea High School and completed his undergraduate work in International Business and Marketing at the University of Rhode Island. He received his Bachelors of Science in Business Administration in 2003.

While in college and after receiving his undergraduate degree, he continued to work with underserved youth at the Pawtucket YMCA as a Program Director. Continuing to volunteer at the Pawtucket YMCA, in 2008, he transitioned his career into the higher education sector with the focus of assisting inner city youth in achieving their academic and career goals.

Since converting over to higher education, he has completed a Master's in Business Administration from URI in 2012 and a Master's of Science in Management at Ellis University in 2011. While on the Community College of Rhode Island Admissions Team for 10+ years, more recently as the Associate Director, he served on the Admissions leadership team contributing to policy and process modifications, including but not limited to, dual and concurrent enrollment while serving as Vice President of the New England Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships from 2015-2017. John managed and served as the specialist for the early college programs offered by the CCRI Admissions department and was responsible for coordinating the high school articulation agreements.

He has also assumed a role as an Adjunct Faculty member at CCRI where he has instructed multiple business and college success courses. More recently, John served as the Director of Concurrent Enrollment & related Career and Technical Education Initiatives for CCRI Academic Affairs where he continued to advocate how invaluable a resource early college programming is to our nation's youth, community, and economic development while managing the Federal Perkins Grant and the statewide PTECH program.

As an innovator, forward thinker and experience with grievances, delegate assembly and political action committee, he was nominated from the floor and elected as the vice president for CCRIPSA in 2018. In 2019, John was welcomed back into CCRI Student Affairs as the Associate Director of Enrollment Services at the Liston Campus where he continues to provide direction, leadership, and promotion of equity for all constituents.

In his spare time, John enjoys sports, home design, family, movies, riding motorcycles, and spending time with his one-year-old baby boy. He hopes to continue his contributions and commitment to higher education and ethical policy at CCRI for years to come!

Stephanie Cruz



Stephanie serves as the Director of Access & EOC. She has started at CCRI in 1989 with the RI Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) and then joined ACCESS as the Project Director in January 2013. In addition, she is the CCRIPSA Secretary.

Professional associations also include President for the New England Educational Opportunity Association, which is a regional professional organization for TRIO program personnel (NEOA), COE Board of Directors, and Board of Reentry Campus Program.

Stephanie completed her B.S. in Business and Master of Public Administration degree at the University of Rhode Island. She is an avid Pittsburgh Steelers, LA Lakers, and Boston Red Sox fan! She also loves to travel.

Jude Tomasino



Jude is the Associate Director of Records & Transfer and CCRIPSA President. In his current role at CCRI, he serves as a transfer specialist and works closely with four-year schools to develop academic transfer pathways for CCRI graduates. In addition, he oversees the Office of Enrollment Services on the Flanagan Campus (Lincoln) and is active on various committees. Jude is completely committed to transfer advocacy and frequently presents on topics related to higher education and transfer at conferences throughout New England and New York.

Jude has worked at CCRI for 13 ½ years in a variety of capacities: Senior Admissions Officer (Transfer), Assistant Director of Admissions (Transfer), Associate Director of Admissions (Transfer). He has also served CCRIPSA as an Area Representative, Grievance/Bargaining/Delegate Assembly Committee member.

He served as the President, Vice President, Conference Chairman and Professional Development Chairman for the New England Transfer Association (NETA). In addition, he is a former two-time President and scholarship committee chairperson for the Rhode Island Association of Admission Officers (RIAAO).

The New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC) recognized Jude with the *Professional of the Year Award*; in addition, RIAAO presented him the *Distinguished Member Award*. NETA & RIAAO also honored him with leadership appreciation awards.

Jude is a believer in lifelong learning and enjoys serving as an adjunct instructor for the business department at CCRI. He has earned his B.S.B.A., M.Ed., M.A., & C.A.G.S. from colleges/universities in MA & RI.

Outside of higher education, Jude has a background in dance and won numerous national titles, including, UCC Professional Mr. Dance, Mr. Dance USA and Mr. Dance Ovations. He has traveled the country as a competition judge and master dance instructor. Additionally, he has been a certified group fitness and Spinning instructor for over 25 years.

Jude is also the very proud dog parent of Jace, Joey, and Jaxx!

Jace & Joey Tomasino



Jaxx Tomasino (the baby of the group)



John Vota



John is a Rhode Island native from Burrillville. He earned his A.S. in Business Management from CCRI and B.S. in Digital Recording Arts Technology for New England Institute of Technology. For the past 9 years (4 PT & 5 FT), he has been employed at CCRI in the Information Technology area, with a focus on Media Services/Classroom Support. He currently serves as a Senior Information Technologist, responsible for the A/V support at various college events and within the classroom.

John has been dedicated to CCRIPSA and served in a variety of roles, including Treasurer (current position), Election Committee, Area Representative, Bargaining Committee, Grievance Committee, and Delegate Assembly.

On the personal side of the house... John describes himself as a single, Sagittarius, with a great head of hair ☺

Deborah Watson

Deb is the Associate Director of Enrollment Services at the Newport County Campus and Second Vice President of CCRIPSA. Her career in higher education started at Bristol Community College where she worked with students and employers to coordinate educational training programs for the Department of Labor & Training. In 2015, she joined the Enrollment Services team at CCRI starting as a Senior Admissions/Financial Aid Officer; however, prior to that she worked in the RI Educational Opportunity Center at the Liston Campus.

Paramount to Deb is her focus on what is best for our students, she advocates for policy and processes that are student-centered. Therefore, her role in OES allows her the opportunity to assist students on their path to success.

Deb has been a long-standing member of CCRIPSA. She prides herself on providing representation that promotes clarity about our work, and equity/inclusion for our members. In addition, she works with the E-Board to CCRIPSA forward by identifying and implementing best practices. She also serves on the bonus project and desk audit appeals committees. She has also been an area representative and served on the most recent Bargaining Committee.

Deborah earned her B.S. from Florida State University in Rehabilitative Services and a Master of Education degree from the University of Rhode Island. She serves on multiple committees and has presented at local and regional conferences. In 2015, she received the *Outstanding Professional of the Year Award* from the New England Association from Admission Counseling (NEACAC). She has been a RI resident since 1991 and has two children.

Are you willing to be highlighted in our new *Get to Know PSA* section? If so, please contact Jude at jatomasino@ccri.edu.

Health Insurance Information from the RI Dept. of Administration...

The Department of Administration is announced the selection of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Rhode Island as its new third-party administrator for the state's medical plans. BCBSRI replaces UnitedHealthcare, which has been the State's third-party administrator for its medical plan since 2005. CVS Caremark, which has been the pharmacy administrator since March 2014, also has been selected to continue administering the State's pharmacy benefits plan.

Every few years, the State solicits competitive bids for health plan administrators in order to ensure it is receiving the best value for our employees, non-Medicare-eligible retirees and taxpayers.

We recognize that employees and retirees may have questions about changes prior to the **transition from UHC to BCBSRI in January 2020**. It's important to let employees know that **plan designs and co-pays are not changing**. More information will become available in the fall after the State has signed contracts with the vendors. Our Office of Employee Benefits will work with the vendors to communicate important updates to members in the months leading up to the transition.

Our goal is to ensure a seamless transition. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, and please let me know if you have any questions.

