



COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
OF RHODE ISLAND

December 2024

# President's Report



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COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND






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## A Message from Rosemary Costigan

Dear Council on Postsecondary Education,

I am pleased to present the December President's Report from the Community College of Rhode Island.

It has been a pivotal year at CCRI, marked by incredible transformation, innovation and growth. Groundbreaking new initiatives have continued to open new doors of opportunity for Rhode Island students, reinforcing our college's commitment to academic excellence, equity and continuous improvement.

One such new initiative was the launch of seven-week terms this fall, in addition to the traditional 15-week semester. Research has shown that seven-week terms improve student retention and success through facilitating increased momentum, motivation and concentration as a result of focusing on fewer

classes at once, and ultimately, decreasing the amount of time it takes for a student to complete their degree or certificate.

This initiative at CCRI was modeled after the success of Odessa Community College's shortened terms. Remarkably, five years after Odessa introduced shortened terms, the number of full-time students increased by 31%, and the number of credentials awarded increased by 65%. At CCRI, we are already seeing the positive impact of seven-week terms reflected in our own data. In comparing Fall 2023 15-week term and the first seven-week term or Fall 2024, we have seen an 11% increase in the course success rate, from 68% to 79%, and even greater increased success rates for students of color (+12%).

Another new initiative I am proud to share is the upcoming launch of CCRI's Multi-Craft Core

Curriculum (MC3) Apprenticeship Readiness Program. On November 21, the college welcomed Governor Dan McKee, Speaker Joe Shekarchi, Executive Director of Building Futures Andrew Cortes and RI Building and Construction Trades Council (RIBCTC) Vice President David Langlais at a press conference to announce the program, which will be delivered in partnership with LiUNA, Building Futures and RIBCTC thanks to a \$250,000 grant from RI-DLT.

Based upon industry-standard curriculum, the MC3 Apprenticeship Readiness Program will provide students with foundational skills needed to succeed in the building and construction trades. Upon completion, students will be connected to opportunities at one of the state's unions, where they will be able to earn while they learn- a hallmark of registered apprenticeships. I am confident

that this program will provide transformative opportunities to our students and be crucial to strengthening Rhode Island's workforce pipeline.

This exciting new addition to CCRI's Division of Workforce Partnerships comes on the heels of our recognition in Providence Business News (PBN) for Excellence in Workforce Development and Productivity. For the third year in a row, CCRI received a manufacturing award from PBN, this year for our Process Technology Program. In 2023, the college was honored for our partnership and programming with Electric Boat, and in 2022, for our Fast Track to CNC program. These awards have been a true testament to our continued excellence in workforce development and education.

In addition, we were thrilled to congratulate our outstanding women's soccer team, who won the NJCAA Division III Region XXI championship for the second year in a row. Under the expert guidance of head coach Jeff Patten, the Knights haven't lost a single regional game since 2022, with six team members making first and second team all-region this year. On behalf of the entire college community, I would like to once again congratulate the team for representing CCRI so well throughout the region and beyond.

Uplifting members of our college community

and fellow Rhode Islanders is incredibly important to us at CCRI - whether it be through amplifying each other's successes, or through promoting acts of service. We know that every effort counts, and every act of kindness has the potential to make a difference.

In the spirit of this sentiment, throughout November the college celebrated the Month of Giving, where we sponsored several events and initiatives to give back to our community, including food and basic needs items drives, a blood drive, and free community events like our youth basketball clinic and a children's story-time session on the Newport Campus. In addition, the entire CCRI community is invited to join us for "Good Night Lights" at Hasbro Children's Hospital on December 4, where we will gather in the parking lot to flash our headlights, upholding the nightly tradition of sending support and encouragement to the hospitalized children inside.

I would like to thank Academic Affairs and Student Affairs for their hard work and collaboration in organizing the month's activities, creating this special opportunity for us to come together as a college and further the impact of our shared values.

Another opportunity for us to come together on behalf of our shared values of fostering equity and student success took place on November

7, in honor of National First-Generation College Student Day. As a first-generation student myself, I was honored to attend CCRI's First-Generation Family Night Celebration to recognize the bravery, resilience and determination of first-generation students and their families. It was a powerful reminder of the opportunity CCRI gave me when I was in their shoes, and the life-changing path it set me on.

In closing, I express my sincere gratitude to the Council for your leadership and ongoing support of CCRI and our students. I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for all we have accomplished together this year, and I look forward to an exciting new year ahead.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.



Rosemary A. Costigan, Ph.D., RN  
Interim President  
Community College of Rhode Island

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# By the Numbers

## ENROLLMENT

# 12,267 students

# of students enrolled\*

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*\* A final census of the number of students enrolled by late November.*

**38%** are full-time (12+ credits)

**62%** are part-time (11 or fewer credits)

# 942

# of early college students enrolled

# 199

 full-time

*(Accelerate / Running Start Programs)*

# 743

 part-time

*(High School Enrichment)*

*All numbers are reflective of November 18, 2024.*

NUMBER OF SECTIONS

**2,400 sections**



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**68%** in-person

**32%** online

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**Academic breakdown of the sections for 7-week 2nd Session**

**158** in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

**65** in Business, Science, Technology and Mathematics

**7** in Health and Rehabilitative Sciences

**11** in Learning Resources

JOINT ADMISSIONS AGREEMENT

**2,039 students**

# of fall 2024 students enrolled in Joint Admissions Agreement

**+4.5%**

increase to URI

**+7%**

increase to RIC

FAFSA

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**9,632**

FAFSA completions

85% of eligible students

## 7-WEEK SESSION SUCCESS RATES

Fall 2024:

# 79% Overall

7 Week Session 1 Course Success Rate  
(2,191 of 2,782)

Fall 2023:

# 68% Overall

Full-Term Success Rate for Comparable Courses  
(11,006 of 16,287)

### Success Rates by Race/Ethnicity



Course success rate for *students of color* overall grew from **63% to 75%**

**12%**  
increase

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Course success rate for *Black students* grew from **61% to 68%**

**7%**  
increase

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Course success rate for *Hispanic students* grew from **63% to 77%**

**14%**  
increase

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Course success rate for *White students* grew from **72% to 83%**

**11%**  
increase

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# Happenings and Events



## Holiday Open House

On December 12th, CCRI's staff will celebrate the joys of the holiday season. To highlight the occasion, the President's House will be decorated as a winter wonderland with festive holiday music, beverages, and sweets!

## Mark Your Calendars

### DECEMBER

<b>Jazz Ensemble</b>	December 3
<b>Good Night Lights at Hasbro</b>	December 4
<b>Chamber Ensemble Concert</b>	December 4
<b>Virtual Adult Learners Info Sessions</b>	December 5
<b>Jazz and Instrumental Recital</b>	December 6
<b>Virtual Rhode Island Promise Info Session</b>	December 8
<b>CCRI Choirs Winter Concert</b>	December 9
<b>Virtual Adult Learners Info Session</b>	December 10
<b>Opera Workshop Scenes</b>	December 10
<b>CCRI Open Enrollment</b>	December 10
<b>Faculty/Staff Town Hall</b>	December 12
<b>Holiday Open House</b>	December 12
<b>Virtual Rhode Island Promise Info Session</b>	December 15
<b>Meghan Hughes Portrait Unveiling</b>	December 17
<b>Winter Sessions Begin</b>	December 30

## Fall Open House

The Community College of Rhode Island held its annual Fall Open House event at the Knight Campus in Warwick on Saturday, October 26. We were pleased to have more than 500 people in attendance with over 30 areas of the college supporting the event including Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Workforce, Marketing, and more!



### TESTIMONIALS

*“We came to learn more about CCRI academic programs. This day gave our son more confidence to attend college.”*

*— Family from Coventry*

*“Everyone made us feel so much at home. Love the churros and the music in the corner area!”*

*— Family from Cranston*





HAPPENINGS AND EVENTS





## First Gen Celebration

CCRI hosted the First Generation Family Night at the Lincoln Campus to honor our vibrant first-generation community. At CCRI, we are proud to have more than half of our students identifying as first-generation alongside numerous faculty, staff, and students who share this remarkable background, including Interim President Rosemary Costigan.



## Women's Soccer Success

For the second year in a row, our women's soccer team was among the final eight teams in the nation competing for a title at this year's NJCAA Division III National Championships in Batavia, NY. The Knights, seeded No. 8 out of eight teams, faced a tall order against the nation's No. 1 team, Delta College, and lost 6-0 in the quarter finals. This year's team finished the regular season 11-2-2 with a perfect 9-0 record in regional play for the second year in a row. In addition, Hailee Manteiga, Meadow Santos, and Herlinda Gutierrez made First Team All-Region XXI this year with Mayah Santos, Kylie Brito, and Leah Neves earning Second Team All-Region honors.





### STEM— Academic and Exploration Day

On November 22, approximately 200 high school students, from eighteen local Rhode Island High schools, attended the STEM “Academic and Exploration Day” event at the Warwick Campus. The students participated in labs across all subjects in STEM, including Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering, Nursing, Mathematics, Occupational Therapy, Business Court Reporting, Computer Cyber and many more. These students worked directly with our faculty and staff to participate in interactive, hands-on activities that mimicked real life experiences. This event was successful due to all the volunteers across various departments, including Admissions, Student Life, Workforce Partnerships and all STEM departments. This event introduces STEM careers and pathways to all students who may not otherwise receive the opportunity in their individual communities.



### Work-based Learning Event with Fidelity

This semester, CCRI is working Fidelity Investments, a longtime partner through the college’s Division of Workforce Partnerships, to provide work-based learning to more than 800 students in CCRI’s Communication Fundamentals (COMM 1010) course. Eighty volunteers from Fidelity participated in panel discussions across our campuses and online, illuminating the importance of soft skills in the workplace and making connections to the themes of class.



## Superintendents and District Administrators Breakfast

President Costigan welcomed Rhode Island school superintendents and district administrators at the Knight campus. The discussion provided information about the RI Promise Scholarship, Early College Opportunities, Career and Technical Education (CTE) partnerships, and seamless transfer to RIC and URI through the Joint Admissions Agreement (JAA).





### Jack Reed's College Financial Aid Workshop

On November 26, United States Senator Jack Reed hosted his annual College Financial Aid Workshop at the Community College of Rhode Island's Warwick Campus.

The free workshop provided college-bound and current college students and their families with information about scholarships, grants, loans, the Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and federal tax benefits to help with college costs while addressing financial aid options available at the federal and state levels and eligibility criteria.

**U.S. Senator Jack Reed's**

**College Financial Aid Workshop**

**Tuesday,  
November 26, 2024  
6:00 to 7:30 pm**

CCRI Knight Campus  
400 East Avenue, Warwick, RI 02886

**JACK REED**  
United States Senator for Rhode Island

### Month of Giving — Food and Basic Needs Drive

After a successful Holiday Food Drive in which 27 students and their families – a total of 97 individuals – received gift baskets for Thanksgiving, the college is also collecting donations for its Holiday Care Packages Drive through December 6 at all campuses. Basic needs supplies (toilet paper, deodorant, body wash, etc.) will be accepted. A second Holiday Food Drive will also launch during the month of December.

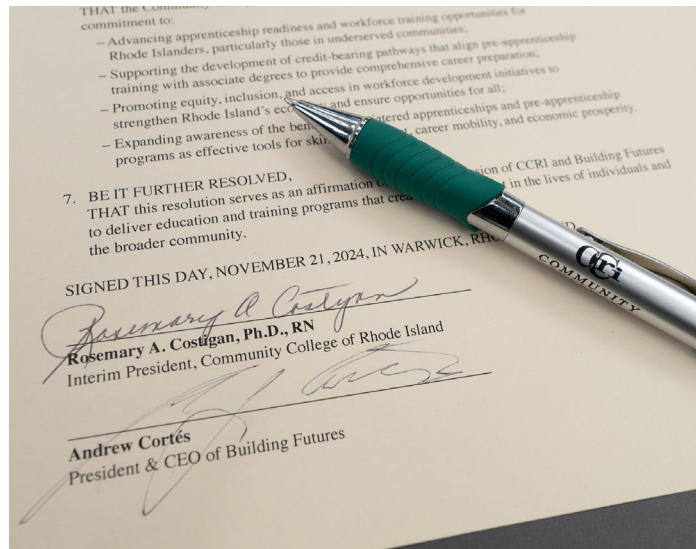
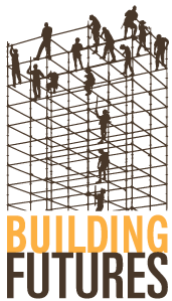
In addition, Our Toys For Tots collection has been extended through December 10, to help the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve bring toys to children in need in time for Christmas. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to donate a new, unwrapped toy to one of our collection boxes available at multiple locations in Warwick, Newport, Lincoln, and Providence.



# Workforce Development

## CCRI Announces Partnership with Building Futures to Deliver a New Apprenticeship Readiness Program

To better prepare the next generation of Rhode Island’s workforce, this January CCRI will be launching the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) Apprenticeship Readiness Program, thanks to \$250,000 grant from RI-DLT. This program will provide students with foundational skills needed to succeed in the building and construction trades, and connect them to opportunities at one of the state’s unions upon completion.





### Inaugural Cohort Graduates CCRI's Introduction to Table Games Dealer Training Course

Twenty students received their certificates as the inaugural graduates of CCRI's newly-launched Introduction to Table Games Dealer Training course sponsored by Bally's Corporation and held at our state-of-the-art Casino Training Academy at the Lincoln Campus.

These graduates are now licensed to work as entry-level blackjack dealers. Over the course of six weeks and 96 hours, they learned a variety of skills from customer service and gaming etiquette to currency handling and conflict resolution within the confines of our Casino Training Academy, which is equipped with eight blackjack tables to simulate real-life casino conditions.

Our partnership with Bally's and the launch of our Introduction to Table Games Dealer Training is the first step in developing our new gaming and hospitality-based curriculum, which includes gaming security, culinary arts, and hospitality and tourism. The second cohort of the Introduction to Table Games Dealer Training course begins January 6 in Lincoln.



▶ Watch the Bally's Sizzle Reel [here](#).

# Our People

## Dean Burke Wins Women of Distinction Award from her Alma Mater

Dean of Career and Technical Education, Early College & Community Partnerships Maddie Burke recently received the Woodward School For Girls' Women of Distinction Award at their annual gala. This prestigious event honors two to three outstanding women from the public and private sectors who have significantly contributed to the community.

Burke is a 2003 graduate of Woodward, one of the most diverse independent, all-girls schools in the greater Boston area. "I was thrilled to be recognized with the Women of Distinction Award," Burke said. Since 1894, the Woodward School has been educating and empowering young women to realize their true potential and discover their passions. Each year, the school hosts the Woodward Women of Distinction event, celebrating exceptional women from the South Shore and Greater Boston who embody our core values of Generosity, Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Leadership, and Scholarship.



*"The event was a beautiful celebration that honored exceptional women who exemplify the school's core values of generosity, integrity, respect, responsibility, leadership, and scholarship." — Maddie Burke*




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### A Veterans Salute to Jennifer O'Rourke

In honor of Veterans Day, CCRI highlighted Jennifer O'Rourke, a Warwick, RI, native and CCRI alumna who spent four years in the United States Navy as a Mass Communication Specialist, developing the photography, journalism, graphic design, and videography skills necessary for her new career as an Assistant Communication and Film/Media professor at CCRI. O'Rourke, a first-generation student and Class of 2007 graduate in her second year as a full-time faculty member, teaches The Art of Public Speaking, Communication Fundamentals, and Discovering Journalism.

### World Language Student Receives an Emmy Award

The CCRI Department of World Languages and Cultures is proud to announce that our student Thomas Ohanian was the recipient of an Emmy award in Engineering, Science, and Technology for developing the Avid Multicamera System at the 76th Academy of Television Arts and Sciences ceremony in Los Angeles in October 2024. Mr. Ohanian is currently completing Intermediate Italian I (ITAL2010) as an independent study. Once he completes the required courses, he will be transferring to URI to pursue a BA in Italian. You can watch Mr. Ohanian's inspiring speech on the importance of dedication, perseverance, and teamwork to achieve one's goals [here](#).

A portrait of Jennifer O'Rourke, a young woman with long brown hair, wearing a denim shirt, smiling. In the background, an American flag and a CCRI flag are visible.

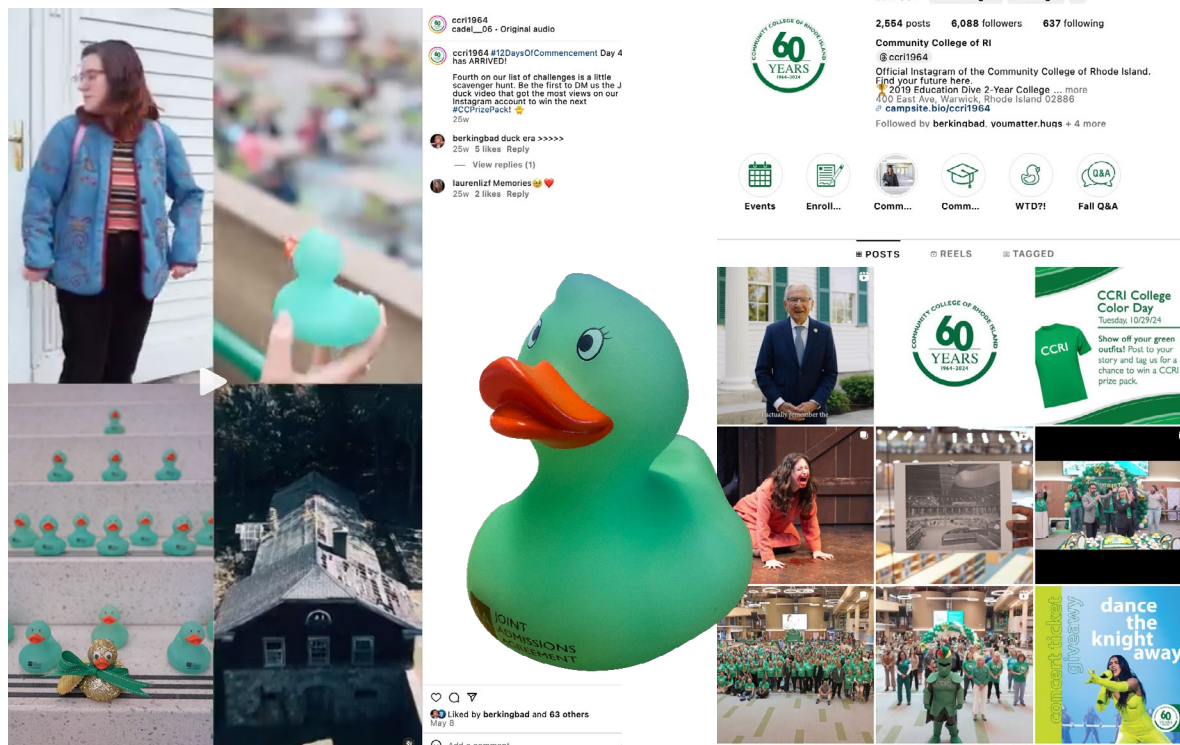
*"I absolutely love my job at CCRI, I won the lottery. I cannot believe how lucky I am."*

— Jennifer O'Rourke



## The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations recognizes CCRI with Top Awards

CCRI’s Marketing and Communications team received recognition from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR). CCRI won a gold medal for its Joint Admissions Agreement (JAA) duck video campaign, published last October, which was a unique and engaging social media series to drive awareness and participation for JAA. Rubber ducks were filmed around campus and hidden for students to find and bring to admissions for a prize. In addition, CCRI received two silver medals – one for its Black History Month campaign and another for the college’s Instagram account.



### JAA Duck Social Media Video Campaign

**Video 1** (original publish date Oct. 6, 2023):  
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CyEqXq0PYy1/>

**Video 2** (original publish date Oct. 13, 2023):  
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CyWic9Fv1vm/>

**Video 3** (original publish date Oct. 19, 2023):  
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CylmdSGLHPX/>

**Video 4** (original publish date Oct. 27, 2023):  
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cy6k4MnvxO7/>





# On the Horizon

## Raising Opportunities 2025

The CCRI Foundation's annual gala, Raising Opportunities, will be held on Friday, April 25, 2025, at the WaterFire Arts Center in Providence from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. This year celebrates CCRI's 60th anniversary and highlights the transformative impact of community centered, equitable, and quality education and workforce training. Please join us for an evening of inspiration and celebration as we honor the achievements of our students and the generosity of our community.

## CCRI Scholarship Program for CDAs

The CCRI Foundation is proud to announce a \$4,000 grant from the Rhode Island Foundation, awarded on the recommendation of the Rhode Island Dental Foundation Fund advisory committee. This grant will support the CCRI Scholarship Program for Certified Dental Assistants (CDAs), providing critical financial assistance to second-semester students in the accredited Dental Assisting Program. By fostering academic excellence and encouraging graduates to contribute to Rhode

Island's dental workforce, this partnership exemplifies our shared commitment to advancing healthcare education and access. Scholarships will be awarded during the Dental Assisting Pinning Ceremony on May 13, 2024.



## CCRI Day at the State House

CCRI Day at the State House will be on April 3. This is an opportunity for the college to highlight elected officials and policy leaders and the incredible impact CCRI has on Rhode Island. It is also a day to showcase our amazing, talented, and hardworking students, faculty, staff, and alumni.





COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
OF RHODE ISLAND

**KNIGHT CAMPUS**

400 East Ave.  
Warwick, RI 02886

**FLANAGAN CAMPUS**

1762 Louisquisset Pike  
Lincoln, RI 02865

**LISTON CAMPUS**

One Hilton St.  
Providence, RI 02905

**NEWPORT COUNTY  
CAMPUS**

One John H. Chafee Blvd.  
Newport, RI 02840

**SATELLITE CAMPUSES:**

**WESTERLY  
EDUCATION CENTER**

23 Friendship Street  
Westerly, RI 02891

**WOONSOCKET  
EDUCATION CENTER**

115 Main St,  
Woonsocket, RI 02895

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