



COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OF RHODE ISLAND

October 2024

President's Report



Contents

A Message from Rosemary Costigan

By the Numbers

Happenings and Events

Our People

Workforce Development

On the Horizon



COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND



A Message from Rosemary Costigan

To the Council on Postsecondary Education,

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

I am very proud to share that the New England Council of Higher Education (NECHE) has officially reaffirmed CCRI's accreditation. This important recognition speaks volumes about the college's collective commitment to excellence, student success, assessment, and continuous improvement.

In its letter affirming accreditation, the Commission commended the college's "candid, thorough, and well-written self-study." The letter went on to read, "With its committed and caring leadership, energized and engaged faculty, staff, and student body, the Community College of Rhode Island is well-positioned to

continue to offer 'high school graduates and returning adults the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for intellectual, professional and personal growth through an array of academic, career, and lifelong learning programs' well into the future."

The NECHE Commission did not find any concerns that would require a two-year follow-up, making the next comprehensive evaluation in Spring 2034, with a standard five-year interim report due in 2029.

This reaffirmation reflects the dedication, hard work and unwavering commitment of the entire CCRI community. The Commission's findings highlight the positive impact that each of my colleagues has on our students and on the future of the college - this achievement is a shared one.

The Commission was particularly impressed with the launch of CCRI Advantage to support incoming students who would benefit from additional preparation in college-level reading, writing, math, and success skills.

CCRI Advantage is proving to be truly transformative in how we prepare students for the rigors of college coursework. Not only has retention been fantastic, but the feedback from both students and faculty has been outstanding. In the coming weeks, I look forward to sharing further updates with this Council on this innovative approach to student success.

Earlier this month, we officially cut the ribbon on our Casino Training Academy, sponsored by Bally's, and launched our first Bally's-sponsored workforce training program, Introduction to

Dealer Training. This is the first of many new certificate and degree programs we will be building out as a result of Bally's \$5-million-dollar gift to the college. This partnership truly highlights the critical role community colleges play in boosting a region's economy, and we look forward to continuing to support Bally's workforce needs and ensure Rhode Island is at the forefront of growing industries.

The success of CCRI Advantage and our Bally's partnership as a result of philanthropic giving stand as proof of the power of philanthropy to support the critical role community colleges play in the higher education landscape. Last month, The Providence Journal published an editorial in which I discussed the great impact of philanthropy on ensuring that community colleges can continue to embrace innovation to fulfill our mission of providing accessible, high-quality education for all.

In further news from the Division of Workforce Partnerships, this past Wednesday, we welcomed Congressman Gabe Amo to our Flanagan Campus to participate in a GWO offshore wind safety training demo. CCRI is proud to be a leader in Rhode Island's blue economy, including as home to the state's first-ever and only GWO-certified training facility, and I am grateful to our congressional delegation for its continued support of our college.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, who commemorated the college's 60th birthday with an official recognition on the Senate floor, citing CCRI as "a pillar of hope for the community, consistently rising to the challenge of meeting the educational and workforce needs of the present and future."

As we celebrate our 60th year throughout this year, I am also pleased to share that CCRI alumna, Jennie Johnson, will be transitioning to a new role as Interim Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement and College Relations and Executive Director of the CCRI Foundation. Jennie's deep connection to CCRI has shaped her dedication to the mission of the college and makes her a natural fit for this leadership role. Her strong communication skills and track record of building positive relationships will be invaluable as we continue to expand the Foundation's impact during our 60th anniversary.

In partnership with the CCRI Foundation, last week, the college hosted the 2024 Outstanding Alumni Awards, where we honored nine alumni, spanning 40 years of CCRI history, for their contributions to our community and leadership in their chosen fields. We were joined by faculty, staff, alumni and community leaders, including Governor Dan McKee, Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos, and alumni members

of our 60th Anniversary Honorary Committee: Senator Leonidas Raptakis, Senator John Burke and Representative Thomas Noret. It was an incredibly moving ceremony, and as a previous honoree myself, I was especially touched to play a role in celebrating these incredible alumni.

Lastly, I would like to share that on October 26, we will be holding our Fall Open House from 10am-1pm on the Knight Campus. This is one of our biggest events of the year and is expected to draw hundreds of prospective students. Our last in-person open house in April drew a record-breaking crowd of more than 400 prospective students. I would like to extend the invitation to all members of the Council to join us for our Fall Open House.

In closing, I express my sincere gratitude to the Council for your leadership and ongoing support of CCRI and our students. I look forward to continuing to work together on behalf of academic excellence, equity, and access to higher education for all Rhode Islanders.



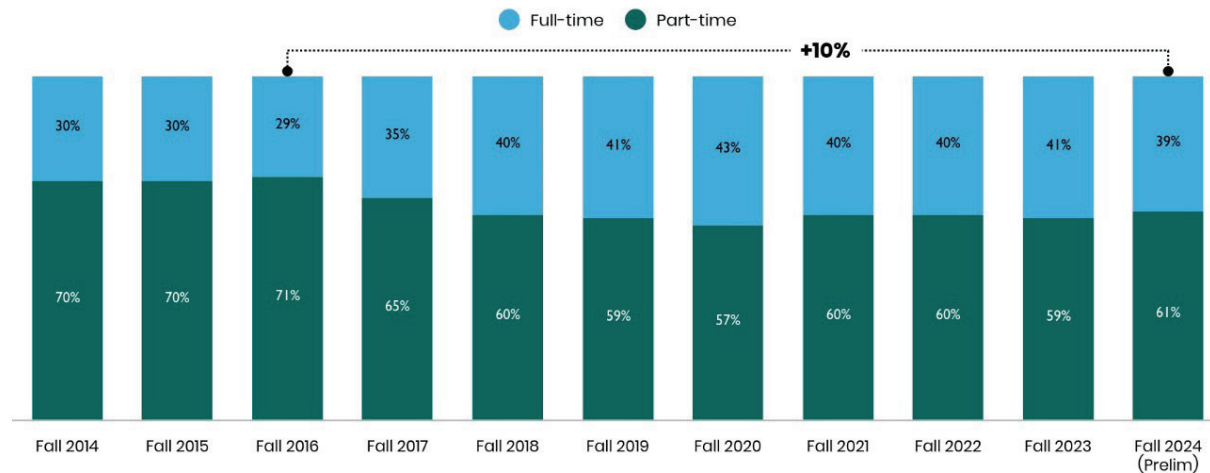
Rosemary A. Costigan, Ph.D., RN
Interim President
Community College of Rhode Island

By the Numbers

ENROLLMENT

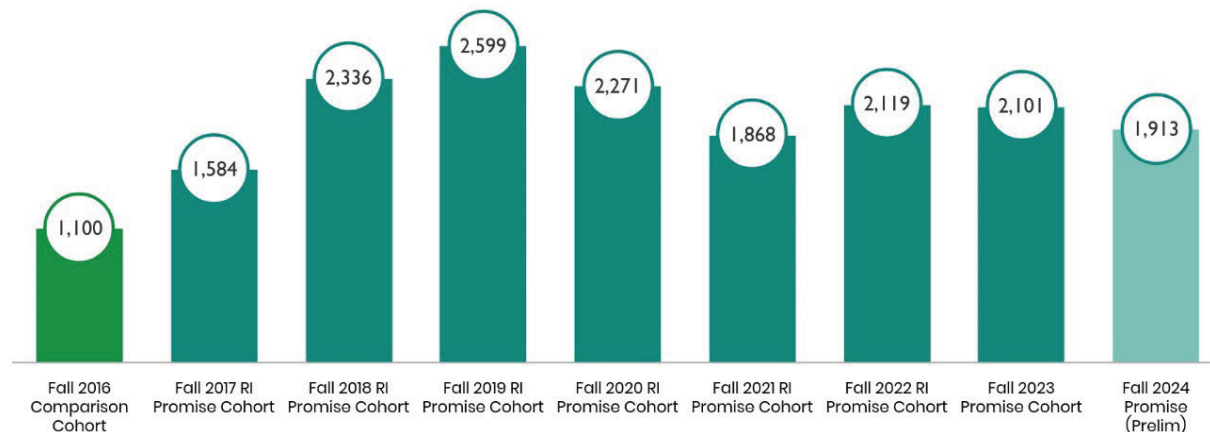
Overall Fall Enrollment: Full-time vs. Part-time Distribution

The proportion of full-time students has grown since the start of Promise



Total Enrollment is 1.6x higher than Pre-Promise

Since the Fall of 2020, the pandemic has impacted overall enrollment



First-time, full-time direct from high school Rhode Islanders

All numbers are reflective of October 16, 2024.

FRESH START

1,405

Adults Enrolled AY 2023–2024

615

Adults Enrolled Fall 2024

82% **18%**

Part-Time Full-time

60% Students of Color

68% First Gen College Student

WHO WE SERVE

1% American Indian/Alaska Native

3% Asian

2% Black

26% Hispanic

5% Two or More Races

46% White

8% Did Not Disclose



60% Female

40% Male

7% Did Not Disclose

Retention



“ I feel very safe and want to come to class.”

—CURRENT ADVANTAGE STUDENT



Happenings and Events



Fall Open House

One of our biggest events of the year, Fall Open House, returns October 26 at the Warwick Campus. The Open House is an opportunity for prospective students and their families to learn about:

- Free tuition through our Fresh Start Scholarship or Rhode Island Promise
- Early College opportunities for high school students
- Our 90+ programs of study and Academic and Career Paths
- Seamless transfer to URI or RIC through JAA
- Financial aid and the importance of filing the FAFSA
- Student life, including athletics, clubs, and student support services

Learn more [here](#).

Mark Your Calendars

OCTOBER

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Business Career Fair | October 22 |
| Degree Completion Day | October 23 |
| Fall Open House | October 26 |
| Spirit Week | October 28 to 31 |

NOVEMBER

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Month of Giving | |
| Native American Heritage Month | |
| First Generation College Student Day | November 8 |
| Rhode Island School Superintendents & District Administrators Breakfast | November 18 |

DECEMBER

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Good Night Lights at Hasbro | December 3 |
|-----------------------------|------------|

Business Career Fair

The college’s Career Services and Business and Professional Studies departments are hosting its annual Business Career Fair on October 22 on the Warwick Knight Campus. This event is open to all students and alumni and offers a unique opportunity to network with more than 25 business employers who will be in attendance ready to hire members of the CCRI community for full-time jobs and internships.

Last year’s Business Career Fair set a new standard with a record number of nearly 300 students in attendance. Representatives from Washington Trust, Bank of America, the State of Rhode Island, and others were on hand to help students achieve their personal, career, and economic goals and learn more about work-based learning opportunities.



Business CAREER FAIR

Tuesday, Oct. 22 | 10:30 am–1:30 pm
Knight Campus, Great Hall

 Career Services

Path Days

October concludes with Path Days, held at each of our four campuses. The theme of Path Days is “Coffee and Career Conversations,” which are informal networking sessions designed for students to chat with alumni, faculty, and employers in their Academic and Career Pathways over light refreshments. Faculty and staff with industry experience are encouraged to participate and network with students who are interested in a similar line of work. The first three Path Days of the academic year are October 28-30 in Providence, Lincoln, and Warwick, respectively, with the final date in Newport on November 7.

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce’s Latino Supplier Summit

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Latino Supplier Summit will serve as a meet and greet event for Latino-owned businesses and Rhode Island companies looking to expand their vendor list with a diverse business network at our Providence Campus from 4–7 pm on October 24. This event is sponsored by the college’s DEI Council, Career Services, and Student Affairs teams.



Grab a cup of coffee or tea, a pastry, and enjoy informal conversation with professionals in your path!

- Monday, October 28**
11 am–1 pm
Providence Campus
- Tuesday, October 29**
11 am–1 pm
Lincoln Campus
- Wednesday, October 30**
11 am–1 pm
Warwick Campus
- Thursday, November 7**
11 am–1 pm
Newport Campus

Happenings and Events

Scaling New Heights

Since launching, 91 students have completed CCRI's GWO Basic Safety Training and gainfully employed on the construction and maintenance of Rhode Island's offshore wind farm.

US Congressman Gabe Amo launched his Blue Economy Tour at CCRI's Lincoln campus with a roundtable of labor leaders and companies developing offshore wind projects to discuss the economic possibilities of this growing industry. Congressman Amo took the conversation to "new heights" as he participated in the Working from Heights module of the training.



NECHE on the Road

CCRI recently hosted the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE) regional meeting as the Commission engages members in conversation about the revision of the Standards of Accreditation, a process that takes place every 10 years. During the business meeting, NECHE president Larry Schall found time to discover the uniqueness of the Knight Campus architecture. As a self-proclaimed “architecture geek,” President Schall shared his love for the brutalist style and captured its magic in a blog post.

We couldn’t agree more about the beauty of the Knight Campus and how it continues to encourage social, cultural and educational exchanges.

Read the blog [here](#).



60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



60th Anniversary Celebration



On the Record

On the day of our 60th anniversary on September 24, U.S. Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse recognized the college for this tremendous milestone during the 118th U.S. Congress. Sen. Reed spoke on behalf of Sen. Whitehouse on the Senate floor, providing a detailed history of what CCRI has accomplished and what the college means to the state's economy and to the tens of thousands of Rhode Islanders it serves each year.



“ CCRI is a pillar of hope for the community, consistently rising to the challenge of meeting the educational and workforce needs of the present and the future. In the last 20 years alone, CCRI has guided students and employers through the Great Recession and COVID-19 pandemic and earned the designation as a Hispanic-serving Institution, reflecting its commitment to meeting emerging community needs. This is all thanks to the dedicated faculty and staff, who work tirelessly to carry out the mission of the college every day.”

Outstanding Alumni Awards

Nine CCRI alumni were inducted into the college's Society of Knights and Emerging Squires as part of the CCRI Alumni Association's 2024 Outstanding Alumni Awards

This prestigious award honors CCRI alumni for their exceptional professional and personal achievement and extraordinary distinction in their chosen field.

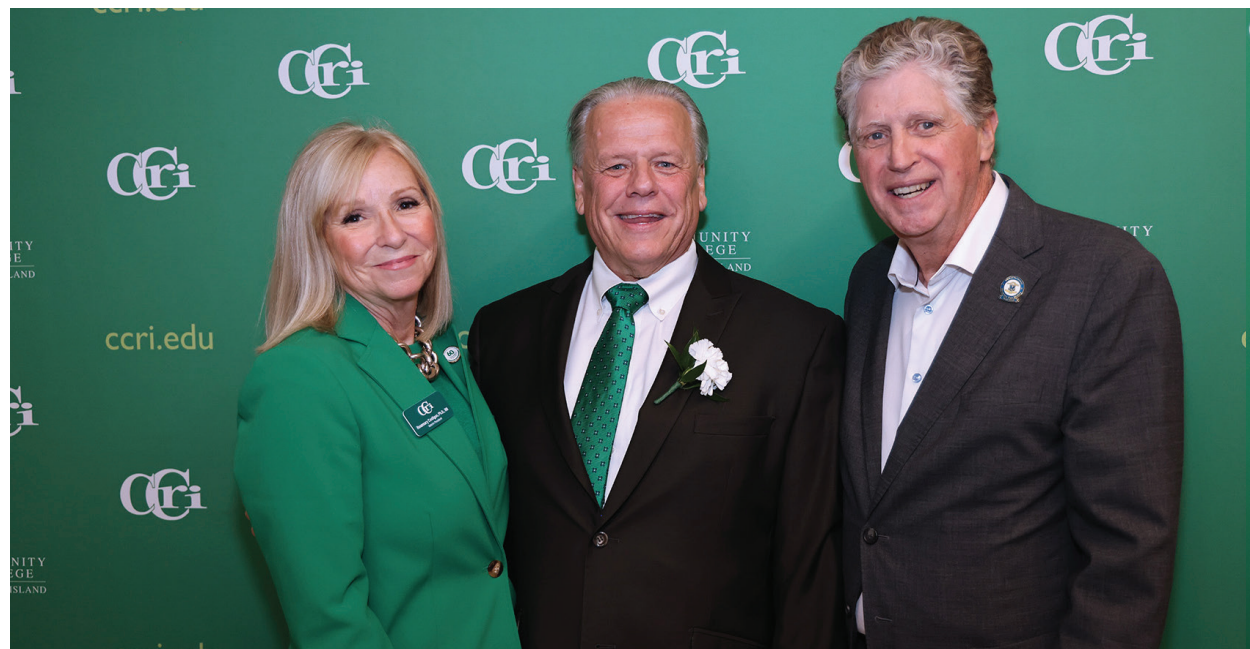
Congratulations to our Outstanding Alumni!

Society of the Knights

Joanne M. Daly '79
Doris Mayleni De Los Santos '02
Thomas W. Quinlan '96

Emerging Squires

Dr. Justin D. Bibee '09
Mileiry "Milly" De La Cruz '18
Rebecca E. Dupras, Esq. '98
Chris G. Hopkins '80
Malida Khim '19
Michael L. Kinch '94





Bally's Ribbon Cutting

The ribbon-cutting at our Casino Training Academy, sponsored by Bally's Corporation, signaled the official launch of our Introduction to Table Games course. The first group of 30 students began classes on October 7.

As part of the partnership with Bally's, CCRI is actively planning to develop new programs in hospitality, tourism, and culinary arts. These programs are part of a broader initiative to align the college's offerings with the growing demands of the local and regional labor market, particularly in industries vital to Rhode Island's economy. As part of this effort, CCRI aims to create pathways that will equip students with practical skills and experience, preparing them for careers in these sectors, which are crucial to the state's vibrant tourism and hospitality industries.



Our People

The Community College of Rhode Island has undergone the following organizational updates.

Jennie Johnson

As a second-generation CCRI graduate and dynamic leader, Jennie is perfect to lead the CCRI Foundation and Office of Institutional Advancement. Her strong track record of fundraising and building positive relationships will be invaluable as we continue to expand the Foundation's impact during our 60th anniversary.



Jennie Johnson
Interim AVP
CCRI Foundation
Institutional Advancement

Greg LaPointe

In this expanded role, Greg will lead the work to increase enrollment on the Newport Campus, while also looking to expand key anchor programs such as hospitality and culinary. In addition, Greg will focus on developing the campus as a hub for workforce activity on Aquidneck Island, aligning educational programs with regional workforce needs.



Greg LaPointe
VP, Student Affairs Chief
Outcomes Officer
Newport Campus Leader

Workforce Partnerships

Building Bridges: Fair Chance Hiring summit

The Division of Workforce Partnerships hosted its second “Building Bridges” workforce summit of the semester at the Warwick Knight Campus. Entitled “Fair Chance Hiring Summit – Leveraging Fair Chance Hiring for a More Inclusive Rhode Island Workforce,” the summit focused on the practice of fair chance hiring, providing meaningful work opportunities for Rhode Islanders who are justice-impacted.

In Rhode Island, nearly one in three individuals have a criminal record. For these individuals, their past can create overwhelming barriers when they try to rebuild their lives—particularly when seeking employment. Too many find themselves locked out of opportunities for economic advancement, no matter how qualified or driven they may be. This cycle of exclusion doesn’t just affect them; it impacts their families and weakens our economy and communities.

At CCRI, we understand that education and workforce training are key to breaking this cycle. Our college has a proud history of providing high-quality educational opportunities to justice-involved individuals, and we remain dedicated to providing a career and education pathway, regardless of someone’s background.



Three-Peat

CCRI has been honored with a Manufacturing Award by the **Providence Business News (PBN)** for the third consecutive year, a testament to its sustained excellence in workforce development and education in the manufacturing sector. CCRI's innovative approach to training the next generation of skilled workers has been recognized across different award categories.

CCRI in partnership with OPC was recognized as PBN's Excellence in Workforce Development and Productivity for the Process Technology program in 2024. This award marks the third year in a row the college has been identified with previous honors in 2022 for the Fast Track to CNC program, and in 2023 for the college's partnership and programming with Electric Boat. The college just started its 15th cohort of the Process Tech program which has served over 150 students and has placed its graduates with over 40 employers, at an average starting salary of over \$47,000.



On the Horizon

Workday Launch Date: March 2025

Rhode Island's ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) Workday system is a comprehensive, cloud-based software platform that integrates key functions of state government operations, such as human resources (HR), payroll, finance, and other administrative tasks. All state agencies, including CCRI, are transitioning to Workday as part of a broader effort to modernize and streamline these processes across various agencies and departments.



CCRI's cross-divisional Workday team include members of Finance, FR and Information Technology, began testing the system internally on October 16 to assess progress, identify issues, and make recommendations to plans as needed.

Good Night Lights at Hasbro

As part of our Month(s) of Giving initiative the Community College of Rhode Island will take part in a Good Night Lights group signal at Hasbro Children's Hospital on Wednesday, December 4. GNL is a heartwarming tradition where local organizations and communities use vehicle headlights or hand-held signals to send nightly messages of support and encouragement to the children staying at the hospital. By participating, CCRI staff, faculty, and students will help bring smiles and comfort to these young patients during the holiday season, demonstrating the spirit of giving and community solidarity. Signaling starts at exactly 8:30 pm and the entire CCRI community is encouraged to join us and participate.



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