



COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OF RHODE ISLAND

January 2025

President's Report



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A Message from Rosemary Costigan

To the Council on Postsecondary Education, Happy New Year! I am pleased to share a few updates as the college concludes the fall semester and looks ahead to the spring.

December was an exciting month for CCRI as we continued our year-long celebration of our 60th anniversary. On December 3rd, I hosted several legislators, along with members of the Council at the president's house for a holiday gathering. It was a delightful and festive evening amidst all the holiday decorations and ambience. On December 10th, we invited friends, alumni, and leaders to join us for a 60th Anniversary Reception at the Knight Estate. I would like to express my gratitude to the CCRI Foundation, Alumni Association, and each member of our 60th Anniversary Honorary and Coordinating Committees, including honorary co-chairs Judge Frank Caprio and

Senator Hanna Gallo, for their leadership in helping us celebrate this milestone year, and for representing the best of CCRI every day. Additionally, on December 12th, I was thrilled to welcome over 100 faculty and staff members for a holiday open house. Looking ahead, the spring semester promises to be filled with even more celebrations marking 60 years of empowering minds and transforming communities.

Next, I would like to provide an update on enrollment for the Fall 2024 semester. It is important to note that for the first time in seven semesters, the college experienced a 2% decline in enrollment, which equates to 243 students. The majority of this decline was seen in the first-time, full-time student population. Despite having a strong enrollment position in late August with 13,000 registered students, there was a significant drop-off in

the number of students who officially attended classes. Several factors contributed to this phenomenon, including a number of students who had initially committed to attending CCRI but ultimately chose to attend other institutions, and a complex FAFSA process. It is worth noting that due to the newly introduced 7-week term, CCRI's enrollment status was finalized on December 15th, which is later than the historically reported census of October 15th. This, however, greatly contributed to our ability to recover enrollment through the option of 7-week terms. We are optimistic that Spring 2025 enrollment numbers and intersession terms will improve.

I am also thrilled to announce that CCRI has been selected to join Presidents for Latino Student Success (P4LSS) as part of the Excelencia in Education network. This national distinction affirms our commitment as a proud

Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) to fostering environments where Latino and Hispanic students can thrive. CCRI's membership in this prestigious network, alongside President Warner and Rhode Island College, underscores our dedication to enhancing transfer pathways and advancing student success. Looking ahead, we aspire to earn the Seal of Excelencia, which recognizes institutions excelling in data-driven, evidence-based practices for serving Latino students.

In personnel news, the college has officially appointed Jennie Johnson as Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement and College Relations and Executive Director of the CCRI Foundation. Since stepping into this role on an interim basis in October, Jennie has already made a significant impact and infused fresh energy into fundraising efforts and alumni relations. Her extensive background in leadership, fundraising and relationship-building is invaluable as we continue to celebrate CCRI's 60th anniversary and seek to advance the CCRI Foundation's mission, expanding its reach in support of our students and programs. Please mark your calendars for April 25th as we celebrate Raising Opportunities 2025: 60th 'Diamond' Anniversary at the Waterfire Arts Center.

Additionally, the college recently appointed Michael Marrapodi as the new Executive Director of Online Learning. Michael comes to us with over two decades of experience in the online learning space, having held key roles at some of the world's largest online learning institutions. Prior to joining CCRI, Marrapodi served as the Dean of Online Programming and Associate Provost for Online Programs at Cambridge College. With the help of Michael's expertise, the college looks forward to boosting its efforts to meet students where they are and increase educational access for all Rhode Islanders.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Council for your unwavering support and leadership. Together, we have achieved so much, and I look forward to an exciting and impactful year ahead.

Sincerely,

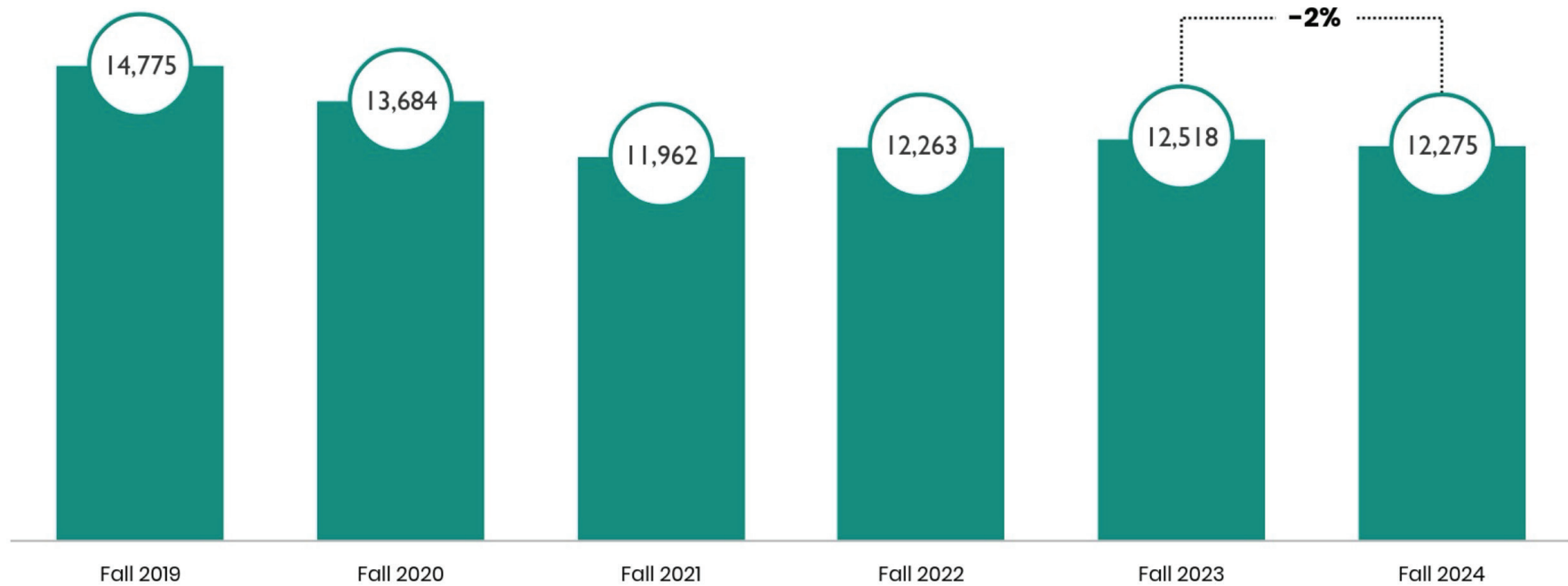
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemary A. Costigan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

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

By the Numbers

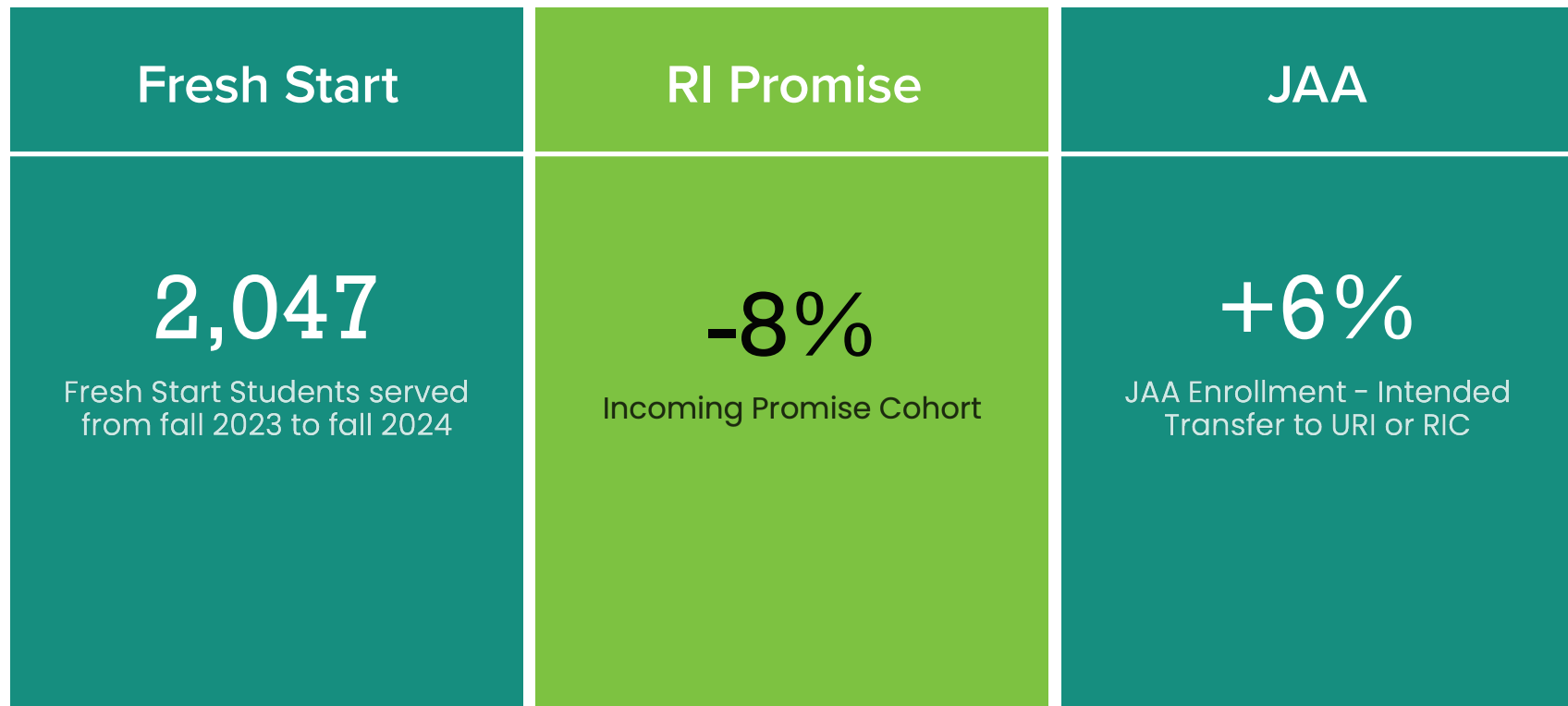
Fall 2024

13,204 peak on September 10



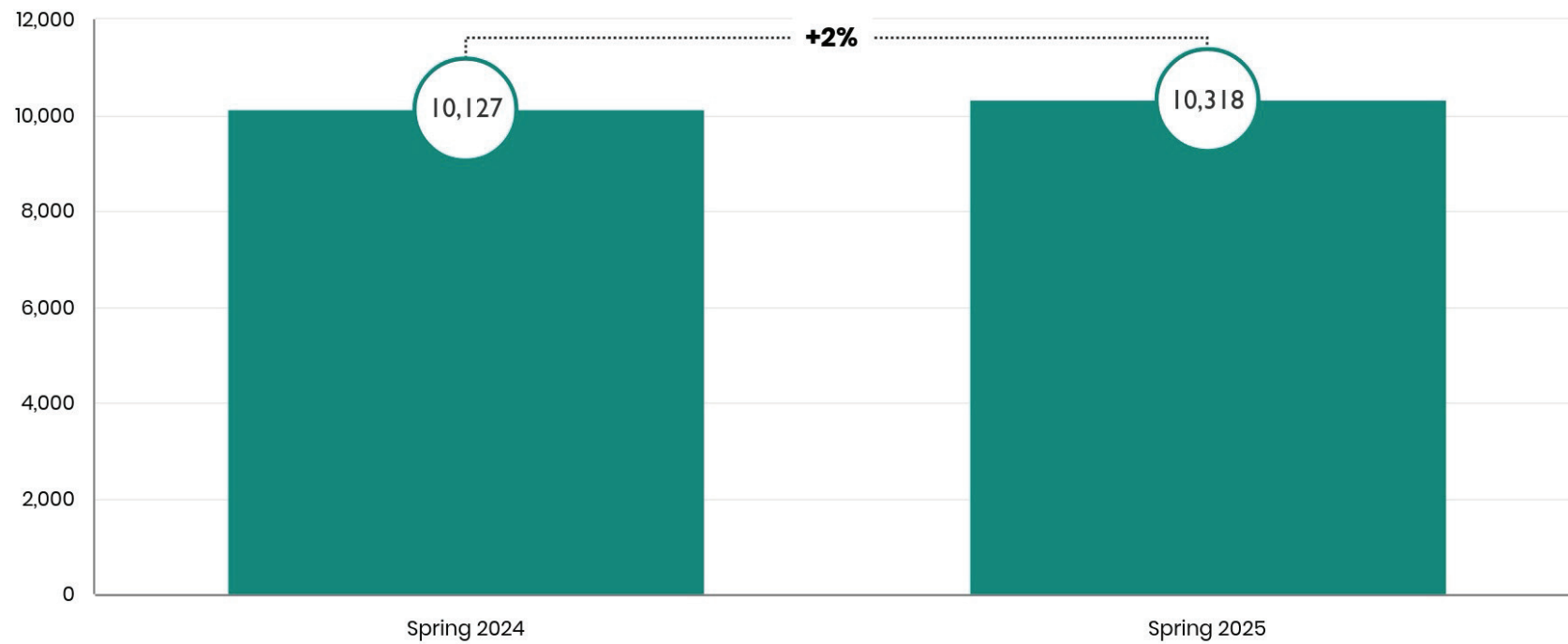
By the Numbers

Fall 2024



By the Numbers

Preliminary Spring Enrollment as compared to the same day last year (1/8/25).



Final census completed in April 2024.

Events

Upcoming Enrollment Days!

Enrollment Day is a student's one-stop shop to complete any of the following enrollment steps such as, submitting their application, registering for classes with expert guidance, reviewing their financial status or getting help with the FAFSA, and learning about transfer opportunities. A number of spring enrollment events are planned for the beginning of January.



Mark Your Calendars

JANUARY

CCRI Enrollment Day	January 7
New Student Orientation at Newport	January 8
New Student Orientation at Flanagan	January 9
Writers Retreat	January 13 & 14
New Student Orientation at Knight	January 14
New Student Orientation at Liston	January 16
Guidance Counselor Breakfast	January 17
CCRI Classes begin	January 21
Funda Fest RI Black Story Tellers	January 25 & 26
CCRI Dental Day 2025	January 31

FEBRUARY

Knight Resource Fair	February 3
Flanagan Resource Fair	February 4
Liston Resource Fair	February 5

MARCH

Women's Day	March 8
Spring Virtual Open House	March 18
Second 7-Week Session classes begin	March 24

APRIL

Spring Open House	April 5
Raising Opportunities	April 25



60th Anniversary Celebratory Launch

On December 10th, the college's 60th Anniversary Honorary and Coordinating Committees, along with members of the CCRI Foundation and Alumni Association, gathered at the President's House on the Warwick Campus for a special 60th Anniversary Celebratory Launch.

This academic year, CCRI proudly celebrates its 60th anniversary as one of New England's largest community colleges and a trailblazer as Rhode Island's only associate degree-granting institution, dedicated to providing all Rhode Islanders with an affordable, high-quality education. With many distinguished guests in attendance, including Co-Chairs of the 60th Anniversary Honorary Committee Senator Hanna Gallo and Chief Judge Emeritus Frank Caprio, this launch event also provided Interim President Rosemary Costigan an opportunity to recognize the college's alumni, friends, and leaders for their unwavering commitment to our community.





Faculty and Staff Holiday Party

On December 12th, CCRI's staff celebrated the joys of the holiday season. The faculty and staff gathered together to celebrate the festive occasion at the President's House. The atmosphere was decorated as a winter wonderland with holiday music, beverages, and sweets.



Good Night Lights at Hasbro

As part of our Month of Giving initiative, Student Engagement and the Month of Giving Committee coordinated over 30 staff and students, along with four campus police vehicles, to take part in a Good Night Lights group signal at Hasbro Children's Hospital on Wednesday, December 4. Good Night Lights 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 helped bring smiles and comfort to young patients during the holiday season, demonstrating the spirit of giving and community solidarity. CCRI also donated 200 flashlights to the hospital and delivered 100 throw blankets during their donation day on December 18.



Toys for Tots

CCRI Veterans Services partnered with the United States Marines to host a Toys for Tots collection box at each of the four campuses. We collected 5 full boxes of toys. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this effort a success.



Brown Bag Lunch and Lecture Series

Rhode Island General Treasurer James Diossa visited the Warwick Campus for the college's Brown Bag Lunch and Lecture Series on Politics and Public Policy. Diossa's presentation, *How the Office of the General Treasurer Serves Rhode Islanders*, gave students, faculty, and staff an inside look at the day-to-day operations of the General Treasurer's office and how Rhode Islanders benefit from its work.



Senator Reed's FAFSA Workshop

United States Senator Jack Reed hosted his annual College Financial Aid Workshop at the Warwick Campus. Representatives from the college's Financial Aid team, the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority (RISLA), and the R.I. Society of Certified Public Accountants hosted a panel discussion to provide college-bound and current college students and their families with information on the financial aid process – including 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.



President Meghan Hughes Portrait Unveiling

The college welcomed former President Dr. Meghan Hughes back to the Warwick Campus for her official portrait unveiling in Room 4090. Dr. Hughes' portrait hangs along side the portraits of CCRI's previous presidents: William F. Flanagan (1964–1979), Edward J. Liston (1979–2000), Thomas D. Sepe (2000–2005), and Ray Di Pasquale (2006–2016). Dr. Hughes served as president from 2016–2023.



Happenings



CCRI Pursues a Certified Seal of Excelencia in Education

The Community College of Rhode Island has been selected to participate in Excelencia in Education and is pursuing a Seal of Excellence. Excelencia in Education leads a national network of results-oriented educators and policymakers to tap the talents of the Latino community and address the U.S. economy's needs for a highly educated workforce and engaged civic leaders. With this network, Excelencia accelerates Latino student success in higher education by promoting Latino student achievement, informing educational policies with a Latino lens, and advancing evidence-based practices. Excelencia is committed to partnering with institutions to share and learn strategies that align data, practice, and leadership to accelerate Latino student success as a community of common cause. CCRI looks forward to collaborating with our colleagues at Rhode Island College as well as continuing to support our ongoing efforts to enhance transfer pathways for our Hispanic/Latino students.

Learn more [here](#).



Accreditation Council of Business Schools and Programs' (ACBSP)

The Accreditation Council of Business Schools and Programs' (ACBSP) Associate Degree Board of Commissioners met on November 14, 2024 and approved the Department of Business and Professional Studies' business program 10-year reaffirmation for CCRI. CCRI is fully reaffirmed with no notes or conditions and was identified for best practices on Standard 4, Student Learning Assessment. The Department of Business and Professional Studies was noted to have a thorough, well-documented process in place to assess learning outcomes and the assessment process, and make improvements accordingly.

NECHE Annual Meeting on December 4–5

CCRI, led by Interim President Costigan, attended the NECHE Annual Meeting in Boston from December 4–6. The team attended sessions on changes to NECHE accreditation standards, higher education under a new federal administration, and AI's transformative role in education, among other topics. Dean Beth Anish, and Director of Career Services and Experiential Education Liz Giordano co-presented a session entitled "Providing Experiential Education Opportunities for Community College Students: A Matter of Equity." Liz and Beth shared how CCRI's approach has been to systematize experiential or

work-based learning across the curriculum and were able to demonstrate the progress we have made (increasing from 25% to 90% of our degree programs including at least one work-based learning experience in one year). They also explained how this progress took truly cross campus collaboration, with academic departments, the Faculty Senate, Career Services, Academic Affairs, and Student Affairs coming together to bring these opportunities to our students as part of their degree programs.



NJCAA Division III Women's Basketball National Championships

The nationally-ranked women's basketball team closed out the first half of its 2024–25 season with a huge win over Region XXI rival Bunker Hill, winning 99-40 behind 19 points from Kellylyn Kozlin and 14 apiece from Sydney Waitekus and Jayanah Rollins. The Knights are 9-2 overall and 7-0 in league play and have now won 44 consecutive games against their regional opponents over the past three and a half seasons. In that same span, the Knights have won three consecutive Region XXI titles and have advanced to the NJCAA Division III Women's Basketball National Championships in all three seasons. CCRI is currently ranked No. 10 in the nation and will play a non-league game December 31 against NCAA Division III Lasell College.

The men's team enters the break 6-6 overall and 5-6 in Region XXI following a loss to Bunker Hill, which dropped them into a three-way tie for sixth in the conference with Massasoit and Springfield.



Our People

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

Jennie Johnson

Jennie Johnson has been appointed as Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement and College Relations and Executive Director of the CCRI Foundation. Since stepping into this role on an interim basis in October, Jennie has already made a significant impact and infused passionate energy into fundraising efforts and alumni relations. As a proud alumna of CCRI, Jennie brings a unique and deeply personal connection to the college. Her professional achievements include leading workforce development initiatives as Vice President for Workforce Partnerships at CCRI, and her commitment to civic engagement as Chair of the Rhode Island State Board of Elections.

Michael Marrapodi

CCRI hired Michael Marrapodi as new Executive Director of Online Learning. Since 2004, he has held key roles at some of the world's largest online learning institutions, including the University of Phoenix and Walden University, in addition to his work at Quincy College and Cambridge College. Most recently, Marrapodi served as the Dean of Online Programming and Associate Provost for Online Programs at Cambridge, utilizing his skills as a transformational higher education leader to drive program expansion and increase enrollment by collaboratively resolving problems to meet organizational challenges.



Jennie Johnson
AVP, CCRI Foundation
Institutional Advancement



Michael Marrapodi
Executive Director of
Online Learning

Barbara Nauman appointed to RI Hospitality Education Foundation

Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Nauman was recently appointed to serve on the Rhode Island Hospitality Association Education Foundation. The Education Foundation was formed with the purpose of encouraging individuals to embark on a career in the foodservice and hospitality industries in the state of Rhode Island. The Education Foundation has shown tremendous growth in the field by way of strong education initiatives with the help of customer service and food safety training programs. This appointment is part of a formal partnership with the Rhode Island Hospitality Association as the college continues to build out its hospitality, tourism and culinary programming.

Greg LaPointe appointed CCRI Newport Campus Leader

Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Outcomes Officer Greg LaPointe, in addition to his current duties, has taken on the responsibility of Newport Campus Leader. In this expanded role, Greg is leading 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 is focusing on developing the campus as a hub for workforce activity on Aquidneck Island, aligning educational programs with regional workforce needs.



Barbar Nauman

Interim Vice President
for Academic Affairs



Greg LaPointe

VP, Student Affairs, Chief
Outcomes Officer, and
Newport Campus Leader

Achieved Tenure and Promotion

Congratulations to the following faculty members who achieved tenure and promotion, effective January 1, 2025:

Tenure and Promotion:

Jonathan A. Dorn – Communication and Film/Media

Charles R. Kell – English

Ali Khalil – English

Rebecca L. Shannon – English

Gaines A. Tyler – Biology

Kenneth P. Wilkinson – Mathematics

Rongfang Yang – Chemistry

Tenure:

Sharon A. DePalma – Mathematics

Alyson Snowe – English

Christopher W. Ratcliffe – Business and Professional Studies

Promotion:

Renee J. Gaboury – English

Patricia A. Kelling – Nursing

Melissa K. Lancellotta – Physics/Engineering

Elizabeth Del Sesto, formerly the Assistant Dean of Business, Science, Technology and Mathematics (BSTM), transitioned to the role of Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs.

Blair Harrington Ruscitti, Assistant Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Science, moved into the Interim Business, Science, Technology and Mathematics (BSTM) Dean role.



Cybersecurity Students Win Big in Cyber League Competition

Cybersecurity students win big in Cyber League competition. Students from the college's Cybersecurity Club, coached by Professor Michael Kelly, participated in events in the National Cyber League's Fall 2024 season and placed 90th nationally in the Cyber Power Rankings among more than 9,260 students from 550 colleges and universities. Students who participated include: **Christopher Allen, Caleb Carr, Brendan Duffy, Matthew Hackett, Dylan Rosania, and Brandon Vargas.** Students also earn a skills report that recognizes their abilities and can be shown to an employer to demonstrate the student's readiness for the job, further bridging the gap from curriculum to careers.

RII-NEST Mentorship Program

Through NSF EPSCoR and supported by RII-NEST, this mentorship facilitates the creation of art and design projects for science communication among a cohort of students and STEM professors from the Community College of Rhode Island. This project will bring together CCRI Art & Design and STEM students to explore shared subject matter through observation and interpretation, challenging each way of working. Under the mentorship of faculty advisors*, students will follow a design process, from researching subject matter to iteration, critique, and refinement. Student art and design work completed in this project will be exhibited to the public. Faculty advisors include:

Associate Professor Daniel O'Neill, Art, Art History and Design

Associate Professor Tyler Vouros, Art, Art History and Design

Associate Professor Sabine Moritz, Biology



2024 PTK Induction Ceremony

Congratulations to the 15 students inducted into CCRI's Pi Omicron chapter of Phi Theta Kappa during this year's ceremony: **Jason Boudreau, Jessfeli Carmona, Cloud Creegan, Laura Edmonds, Mayrileny Igoe, Lucas Johnson, John Machado, Allianna Muldrow, Katelyn Rose Ouellette, Edwin Pimentel, Anona Dawn Porter, Journey Serena, Alexia Teixeira, Tiffany Totten, and Candace Wilkinson.** PTK is an international honor society for two-year colleges throughout the United States and abroad.

Academic Affairs

Aligning Education with Opportunity: CCRI's Continuous Curriculum Review in Action

As part of its continuous curriculum review process, CCRI adjusted its program offerings to respond to changing labor market demands.

CCRI launched its **Surgical Technology Certificate** program in Spring 2023, enrolling 18 students in its inaugural cohort. The program quickly gained traction, with significant interest from prospective students.

Initially designed as a 43-credit certificate, the program was recently expanded to a **two-year associate degree** to meet updated accreditation standards set by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, the accrediting body for surgical technology programs.

The associate degree program integrates classroom instruction, simulated laboratory experiences, and supervised clinical practice in hospital settings. Students focus on the

fundamental principles of surgical technology and perioperative patient care, completing 500 practicum hours and participating in a minimum of 120 surgical procedures. CCRI anticipates enrolling at least 30 students for the program in Fall 2025.

According to the **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics**, the demand for Surgical Technicians is expected to grow by 6% over the next decade, with an average annual salary of \$63,560 in Rhode Island.

In December 2024, the Council on Postsecondary Education approved CCRI's new **Hospitality and Tourism Management Certificate**, which will be included in the 2025–26 Academic Catalog. This fully online, 18-credit certificate program will launch in Fall 2025, with select courses available as early as Spring 2025. The certificate, which is 100% transferable to Johnson & Wales University, equips students with essential skills and knowledge for careers in lodging, food service, tourism, and attractions management.

The college closed three administrative degree programs—**Legal Administrative Assistant, Executive Administrative Assistant, and Medical Administrative Assistant**—that were also offered as certificates. After careful review, it was determined that the standalone certificates met students' skill requirements for successful employment, allowing them to earn high-value credentials more efficiently and enter the workforce promptly.

In response to recommendations from CCRI's Computer Studies Industry Advisory Board and evolving industry standards, the college also discontinued its **Cloud Computing** degree program. Research indicated that students would benefit from broader educational pathways, making them more competitive in the job market. CCRI continues to offer robust programs in **Computer Programming, Networking/Support, and Web Technology** to meet the needs of today's tech-driven economy.

Expanding Educational Access for Multi-Language Learners at CCRI's Newport Campus

CCRI is now offering **English Language Learning (ELL)** programs at the Newport Campus, addressing the growing need for accessible language education on Aquidneck Island. Recent data highlights that the region's population of multi-language learners has increased significantly, with nearly 15% of residents speaking a language other than English at home. Among these individuals, many are eager to strengthen their English proficiency to access better employment opportunities, pursue higher education, and integrate more fully into the community.

CCRI's ELL offerings are designed to meet students where they are, providing personalized support and flexible schedules to accommodate working adults and busy families. By offering classes at the Newport Campus, CCRI is ensuring that residents of Aquidneck Island have a local and affordable option to enhance their language skills. These courses focus on practical communication, academic readiness, and workforce preparation, empowering students to achieve their personal and professional goals.



STUDENT SUPPORT FALL 2024

Institutional Advancement



\$265,110

in scholarship awarded to
385 students



\$54,344

in emergency grants
distributed to students



\$18,413

in meal vouchers
provided to 117 students

Workforce Partnerships

Division of Workforce Partnerships Earns 2024 PACE-RI award

CCRI's Division of Workforce Partnerships has won the 2024 PACE-RI Academic Partnership Award for its work in developing free training programs to help upskill more than 50 employees through online trainings and in-person courses at PACE's East Providence, RI, headquarters and CCRI's Providence Campus.

PACE-RI – or Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly – is a health plan founded in 2005 for adults 55 and older who have chronic health needs and wish to remain living at home.

PACE provides participants with both insurance and medical care, as well as a range of health and social services that include adult day care, transportation, and meals. Courtesy of a grant from Rhode Island's Executive Office

of Health & Human Services, focused on the growth and development of home and community-based service providers across Rhode Island, CCRI instructors tailored content across seven professional development programs and offered them to all PACE-RI employees. Topics covered included Mental Health First Aid; Social Determinants of Health; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Healthcare; and a comprehensive seven-week course on Healthcare Data and Reporting skills. Fifty-nine PACE-RI employees participated in the trainings. CCRI accepted its award at PACE-RI's annual meeting on Thursday, December 5.



Bally's Introduction to Table Games Delivers Winning Hand

The inaugural Introduction to Table Games cohort graduated 20 students in November, with 19 passing their state licensing exam and receiving employment offers from Bally's. The second cohort commenced on January 6 with 30 enrolled students. This program continues to demonstrate its value in preparing students for success in the gaming industry, and we look forward to tracking the progress of our latest cohort.

Apprenticeship Readiness Program Launches This Month

CCRI will launch its first Multi Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) cohort on January 27 with 15 students as part of a broader initiative supported by a \$250,000 investment from the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training. Initially, the MC3 curriculum will adhere to nationally recognized standards, enhanced with tailored contextual elements to help students make informed career decisions while exploring opportunities across Rhode Island's diverse trade industries.

In addition to supporting the pilot cohorts, the \$250,000 investment will fund the development of a new curriculum and the alignment of learning outcomes, positioning CCRI to offer one of the nation's first credit-bearing MC3 programs. This advancement will provide students with unparalleled flexibility, enabling them to seamlessly transition into trade careers, pursue further college coursework, or combine both as they advance their professional goals. This innovative program underscores CCRI's commitment to workforce development and student success in the trades.



MC3 AT CCRI:
Building Bridges to Skilled Trades and Careers

On the Horizon

Mission Statement

CCRI is in the process of updating its mission and vision statement and collecting valuable insights that will shape our identity, influence our aspirations, and support future strategic planning initiatives. In November, the college began conducting focus groups to gather community input on the mission and vision statement for the college. As we continue to wrap up our focus groups, we want to ensure everyone has the opportunity to share their voice, so we're offering a short, two question survey to solicit feedback. Note, this survey form is anonymous. If interested, please [fill out the survey](#) before the January 24, 2025 deadline.

New Logo and Brand Campaign

In the upcoming months, CCRI will begin rolling out a new logo and a supporting brand campaign. This launch follows an extensive exploratory phase of conducting research on our audience, brand, and competition. Our findings resulted in a strategic brand platform, new look, and brand voice to increase recognition and awareness for CCRI.

Newport Campus

As part of our ongoing efforts to increase enrollment and enhance student experiences at the Newport Campus, the following will be implemented over the upcoming two years, focusing on the City of Newport and Rogers High School.

- Significantly increase course offerings
- New block course schedule for full-time student enrollment
- Fully staffed with all student services available, and enhanced student engagement activities
- Increase engagement and partnerships with local businesses such as the Rhode Island Hospitality Association, FabNewport, Conexión Latina Newport, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, IYRS Technology and Trades, and more.





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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