

2026 -- H 8459

LC004549

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 16, 2026, TO BE "COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Noret, Chippendale, Paplauskas, Cortvriend, Diaz, Bennett, Felix, and Voas

Date Introduced: April 16, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), established in 1964, is  
2 the state's only public community college and serves as a cornerstone of Rhode Island's higher  
3 education and workforce development system; and

4 WHEREAS, CCRI provides accessible, affordable, and high-quality education to tens of  
5 thousands of Rhode Islanders each year, creating pathways to academic achievement, career  
6 advancement, and lifelong opportunity; and

7 WHEREAS, CCRI is a community of thinkers, doers, and achievers—empowering  
8 students to learn, work, and lead in ways that strengthen their communities and contribute to the  
9 state's economic vitality; and

10 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of President Rosemary A. Costigan, Ph.D., RN, who  
11 was appointed as the college's sixth president on June 18, 2025, and is the first alumna in the  
12 institution's history to serve in this role, CCRI continues to advance its mission with a deep  
13 commitment to student success, workforce alignment, and institutional excellence; and

14 WHEREAS, CCRI has implemented innovative, student-centered strategies to improve  
15 outcomes, including guided pathways, expanded year-round learning opportunities, enhanced  
16 academic advising, and data-informed supports that help students stay on track and graduate; and

17 WHEREAS, These efforts have resulted in improved retention and graduation outcomes,  
18 demonstrating CCRI's commitment not only to access, but to completion and meaningful  
19 postsecondary success; and

1           WHEREAS, CCRI serves as Rhode Island’s primary engine for workforce development,  
2 delivering high-quality education and training aligned with employer needs across critical sectors  
3 including healthcare, advanced manufacturing, construction trades, information technology, and  
4 emerging industries; and

5           WHEREAS, Through strong partnerships with employers, industry leaders, and  
6 organized labor, CCRI develops and delivers workforce programs, short-term credentials, and  
7 apprenticeship pathways that prepare Rhode Islanders for in-demand, family-sustaining careers;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, CCRI plays a vital role in strengthening Rhode Island’s talent pipeline,  
10 ensuring that employers have access to a skilled workforce and that residents have access to  
11 economic opportunity and upward mobility; and

12           WHEREAS, CCRI provides seamless and affordable transfer pathways to four-year  
13 institutions, enabling students to continue their education and achieve higher levels of attainment  
14 while minimizing cost and expanding opportunity; and

15           WHEREAS, CCRI continues to position itself to meet the needs of future generations  
16 through forward-looking investments in modern training environments, expanded capacity in  
17 high-demand fields, and a continued commitment to innovation in teaching, learning, and  
18 workforce preparation; and

19           WHEREAS, CCRI’s impact on Rhode Island’s economy is significant and measurable,  
20 contributing nearly \$900 million annually and supporting more than 11,000 jobs across the  
21 state—approximately one in every sixty jobs; and

22           WHEREAS, CCRI delivers exceptional value for students and the state, consistently  
23 ranking number one among Rhode Island colleges for return on investment at the ten-year  
24 horizon, with graduates entering the workforce quickly, earning strong wages, and carrying  
25 minimal debt; and

26           WHEREAS, These outcomes reflect CCRI’s essential role in strengthening families,  
27 supporting employers, and advancing long-term economic growth and competitiveness for the  
28 State of Rhode Island; now, therefore be it

29           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
30 proclaims April 16, 2026, to be “Community College of Rhode Island Day”; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
2 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the President of the Community College of  
3 Rhode Island.

=====  
LC004549  
=====