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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE CLASS OF
2017, ITS NEW PRESIDENT, AND ITS ALUMNI

Introduced By: Senators Picard, Raptakis, Algieri, Satchell, and Metts

Date Introduced: May 03, 2017

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, In 1854, Rhode Island College was established by the General Assembly as
2 the Rhode Island Normal School, just the eighth such postsecondary teacher education institution
3 in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1920, the school was renamed Rhode Island College of Education and
5 granted the authority to confer baccalaureate degrees and to establish a master's level program in
6 education; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1960, the college was given an expanded mission of becoming the state's
8 urban-based comprehensive college, with programs in the arts and sciences in addition to
9 professional studies; and

10 WHEREAS, During the course of its 163 years, the college has conferred over 64,000
11 baccalaureate and advanced degrees and certificates, whose membership will be joined in May of
12 2017 by approximately 1,600 individuals, thus increasing the ranks of Rhode Island College
13 Alumni; and

14 WHEREAS, Today, Rhode Island College offers over 100 majors at the undergraduate
15 and graduate levels, many of which have numerous opportunities for specialization; and

16 WHEREAS, Over 85 percent of the college's degree recipients are Rhode Island
17 residents, which is by far the highest percentage of state residents receiving degrees at any of the
18 baccalaureate-granting colleges and universities in Rhode Island; and

19 WHEREAS, An institutional research study of the Rhode Island College graduating class

1 of 2013 found that of those alumni who were employed one year after graduation, two-thirds
2 were employed in Rhode Island; and

3 WHEREAS, Rhode Island College has welcomed new leadership in the person of Dr.
4 Frank D. Sánchez, originally of Wyoming but more recently Assistant Chancellor for Student
5 Affairs at the City University of New York (CUNY), whose parents were, like 44 percent of the
6 students at Rhode Island College, first-generation college students; and

7 WHEREAS, On May 13 of 2017, President Sánchez will preside over his first
8 baccalaureate and advanced degree commencement convocations; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
10 hereby recognizes and congratulates President Sánchez, the members of the Rhode Island College
11 Class of 2017, and all of the college's loyal alumni; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dr. Frank D. Sánchez, President of Rhode
14 Island College.

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