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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

**THANKING MEGHAN HUGHES, PH. D., FOR HER DEDICATED LEADERSHIP AS THE
FIFTH PRESIDENT OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators Cano, Gallo, Burke, Raptakis, Tikoian, Felag, Sosnowski, F.
Lombardi, DiMario, and Mack

Date Introduced: May 04, 2023

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, On February 1st of 2016, Meghan Hughes, Ph. D., a Class B Director,
2 became the first female and fifth President of Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI); and

3 WHEREAS, Founded in 1964, Community College of Rhode Island is the largest
4 community college in New England, educating 22,000 students annually and dedicated to its
5 mission “to offer recent high school graduates and returning adults the opportunity to acquire the
6 knowledge and skills necessary for intellectual, professional and personal growth through an
7 array of academic, career and lifelong learning programs”; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Hughes graduated magna cum laude from Yale University and holds a
9 Doctorate from New York University. Previous to her appointment as President, she had attained
10 thirty years of experience in higher education and the nonprofit sector including leading Year Up
11 Providence and as an art history teacher; and

12 WHEREAS, During her tenure at CCRI, Dr. Hughes successfully championed a strategic
13 plan that focused on student success and closing equity performance gaps, with “strong learning
14 outcomes, successful degree attainment, and robust labor market outcomes”; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2022, Dr. Hughes achieved many of her goals when CCRI achieved its
16 highest graduation rate in eighteen years and continues to aggressively pursue meaningful
17 retention, completion, transfer and employment gains for its students; and

18 WHEREAS, Recognized for her achievements, Dr. Hughes has been honored with the
19 “Trailblazer in Education” award in 2018, the “Foundation Builder Award” by the Latino Public

1 Radio Foundation in 2016, the “Community Leader” award by the Rhode Island Foundation in
2 2015, and was named “Outstanding Woman of the Year” by United States Representative David
3 Cicilline in 2014; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition, Dr. Hughes serves on myriad Boards and Commissions
5 including, the Rhode Island Foundation, Greater Providence Chamber, Year Up Rhode Island,
6 Congressman Cicilline’s Women’s Advisory Council, the Rhode Island Commodores, the
7 Governor’s Commission on Higher Education and Employability, and the Governor’s Skills
8 Cabinet; and

9 WHEREAS, Extraordinary people never retire, they just begin a new chapter of their
10 lives. Such is the case with Dr. Meghan Hughes who, by virtue of her numerous
11 accomplishments, serves as a model for all our educational leaders; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby honors and commends
13 Meghan Hughes on her retirement after seven and a half years of devoted service to the students
14 at Community College of Rhode Island. We thank her for all her efforts and wish her good health,
15 fulfillment and much success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
17 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Meghan Hughes, Ph. D.

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