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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING APRIL 24, 2025, AS "RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE DAY" IN THE STATE  
OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Lawson, Vargas, and Appollonio

Date Introduced: May 05, 2025

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Established by the General Assembly in 1854, and originally named the  
2 "Rhode Island State Normal School", Rhode Island College (RIC) is a public college located in  
3 the City of Providence and is the second oldest institution of higher education – and the oldest  
4 public institution of higher education – in Rhode Island; and

5 WHEREAS, Comprised of a 180-acre campus, RIC has 360 full-time faculty members,  
6 and a student body of more than 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students. The college offers  
7 more than 55 undergraduate and 25 graduate degree programs, and a doctoral program in nursing  
8 practice; and

9 WHEREAS, In addition, RIC offers programs and classes in professional and workforce  
10 development, continuing and adult education, and community programs and initiatives that  
11 "empower our citizens and strengthen our communities"; and

12 WHEREAS, RIC also offers a panoply of athletic opportunities as a member of the  
13 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III with 21 varsity sports, including 9  
14 men's sports teams and 12 women's sports teams; and

15 WHEREAS, Earning recognition throughout New England for its excellence, RIC was  
16 named one of the "Top 10 Best Value Public Colleges in New England" in 2021, and was ranked  
17 #1 for social mobility among public regional universities in New England, according to the 2022  
18 U.S. News and World Report; and

19 WHEREAS, Rhode Island College is now on the cutting edge of programs in cyber

1 security, biotechnology, data science and artificial intelligence, allowing its students opportunities  
2 to find meaningful and lucrative work in these critical fields. The programs will also ensure that  
3 our State, as well as our nation, will have the needed expertise in these emerging technological  
4 fields; and

5 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's motto "Hope", became reality for Rhode Island residents in  
6 the fall of 2023, as the college initiated the Hope Scholarship, which will benefit its students  
7 seeking a 4-year degree; and

8 WHEREAS, The people of Rhode Island have chosen to invest in the State's high-tech  
9 future at Rhode Island College, approving funding in two successive bond referenda to  
10 completely modernize the College's physical sciences facility, Clark Science, and to transform  
11 Whipple Hall, one of the oldest buildings on campus, into a state-of-the-art Institute for  
12 Cybersecurity & Emerging Technologies with a cyber range and security operations center; now,  
13 therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby celebrates April 24,  
15 2025, as "Rhode Island College Day" and thanks the College and staff for the significant  
16 contributions they provide to the citizens of our State; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Jack R. Warner, President of Rhode Island  
19 College.

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