



Green & White

*Recognizing the power
of CCRI Alumni*

We are 80,000 alumni strong.

We are at the center of the state's economy.

We are entrepreneurs and business leaders.

We are nurses and healthcare professionals.

We are educators and community changemakers.

We are Rhode Island.



Alumni Association

Meet your 2024 Outstanding Alumni Awards Recipients

Society of the Knights

Joanne M. Daly '79

Doris Mayleni De Los Santos '02

Thomas W. Quinlan '96

Emerging Squires

Dr. Justin D. Bibee '09

Mileiry “Milly” De La Cruz '18

Rebecca E. Dupras, Esq. '98

Chris G. Hopkins '80

Malida Khim '19

Michael L. Kinch '94

SOCIETY OF THE KNIGHTS

NAME: JOANNE M. DALY

CLASS YEAR: '79

TITLE: Financial Advisor

ORGANIZATION: Morgan Stanley

CCRI was a great stepping stone to help me achieve my career goals. CCRI made college affordable for me, since my dad died when I was young, financial resources were limited, so I paid for school on my own while working almost full-time. CCRI helped me to determine which career path I followed, taking my first accounting class at CCRI, then going off to Bryant and majoring in accounting, then an MST. I became a successful CPA and the only woman in Management at the Ernst and Young Pittsburgh office. I continue to use that experience in my field today.



Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient

SOCIETY OF THE KNIGHTS

NAME: DORIS MAYLENI DE LOS SANTOS

CLASS YEAR: '02

TITLE: Director, Supplier Diversity & Sustainability

ORGANIZATION: Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI

CCRI was a beacon of hope, a guiding star! When I relocated to Providence from the Dominican Republic in my 20s, I had no choice but to challenge myself to navigate the complexities of a new environment with limited English proficiency. I relied on my newfound community to find my way in this new reality. CCRI unlocked a universe of possibilities, setting the stage for me to elevate my aspirations and unleash my full potential. I experienced the support of a vibrant and diverse community, including dedicated faculty who believed in me and challenged me to reach higher, fellow students who shared my lived experiences, and counselors who faced challenges head-on. I graduated with highest honors, balancing motherhood with my one-year-old son in tow and expecting my daughter. Reflecting on the graduate who walked across the stage to receive her diploma and the person I am now, serving as the inaugural Director of Supplier Diversity & Sustainability at Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI, thriving as an entrepreneur and Real Estate agent with an Master Degree in Community Development, and as a Roger Williams University's Trustee, I can say without hesitation that I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for the excellence of CCRI.



Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient

SOCIETY OF THE KNIGHTS

NAME: THOMAS W. QUINLAN

CLASS YEAR: '96

TITLE: Vice President Commercial and Small Business Lender

ORGANIZATION: HarborOne Bank

Earning an education from CCRI truly opens doors to many opportunities.



Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient

EMERGING SQUIRE

NAME: DR. JUSTIN D. BIBEE

CLASS YEAR: '09

TITLE: Assistant Director, Refugee Resettlement

ORGANIZATION: Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island

As a first-generation college graduate, I balanced full-time work with full-time studies. CCRI provided the accessible education I needed with its flexible scheduling, making higher education attainable for me. Since graduating from CCRI, I have pursued further education, earning a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and a doctoral degree. Concurrently, I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco from 2014 to 2016. Currently, I am serving a fellowship at Brown University's Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies. My work has taken me on human rights missions around the world, allowing me to work and live in beautiful countries. As a human rights advocate, I am accustomed to facing long odds and high risks. Human rights work is inherently tenacious, characterized by formidable challenges, requiring long-term commitment to pursue reforms and protections over extended periods. Daily, we face adversity to bravely uphold human rights principles. Despite these challenges, efforts often result in important achievements like legal reforms, better protections, and increased awareness of human rights violations.



Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient

EMERGING SQUIRE

NAME: MILEIRY “MILLY” DE LA CRUZ

CLASS YEAR: '18

TITLE: Associate Director of Operations and
Communications for Student Accessibility Services

ORGANIZATION: Clark University

During my first semester at CCRI in the fall of 2016, I was accepted into the Student Ambassador Program and through this experience, I discovered my true passion, which is to empower others to pursue an education. I truly enjoyed fulfilling my duties as a Student Ambassador because I was able to meet prospective students and families during tours and help individuals start their academic journey at CCRI. After my first semester, I decided that I wanted to pursue a career in higher education and help college students find their pathway to success. Thanks to CCRI's wonderful faculty and staff, I was able to graduate from CCRI with my associate degree in General Studies and seamlessly transferred to Rhode Island College through the Joint Admissions Agreement (JAA) Program. In 2020, I successfully completed my bachelor's degree in Communication from RIC and was a Ronald E. McNair Scholar. Thanks to the McNair program, I was accepted into the Master's in Higher Education program at Providence College where I completed my M.Ed. with a 4.0 GPA in the fall of 2022. I constantly encourage my friends and family to attend CCRI because this is where everything started for me. I love CCRI!



Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient

EMERGING SQUIRE

NAME: REBECCA E. DUPRAS ESQ.

CLASS YEAR: '98

TITLE: Principal

ORGANIZATION: Dupras Law

I was trying to decide if I wanted to be a lawyer, and I thought getting a paralegal degree would help me decide. I was working at a law firm at the time and applied to Roger Williams University. RWU suggested that I take classes at CCRI to help save some money since I was going to be paying my way through school. I enrolled at CCRI and was really impressed with the teachers and work. I was able to use credits from another institution I had gone to previously and graduate in two years. I went to school at night while working during the day, which the professors at CCRI understood. The coursework at CCRI prepared me well for finishing my degree at RWU and then going on to Suffolk University Law School. I have been a lawyer for almost 20 years and can point to CCRI as part of the reason I have been successful in my schooling and career. I have had the opportunity to work in both the nonprofit sector and in private practice focused on estate planning and estate and trust litigation. I started my own firm in 2021 and recently was accepted to the Board of Trustees for the CCRI Foundation. The work that CCRI is doing in the community is inspiring and I am excited to be part of it.



Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient

EMERGING SQUIRE

NAME: CHRIS G. HOPKINS

CLASS YEAR: '80

TITLE: Retired Vice President of Programs

ORGANIZATION: Special Olympics Rhode Island

My two older brothers attended the Community College of Rhode Island. They enjoyed their experience academically, and they both played on the baseball team. When I finished high school, I was unsure what direction my life would be. I decided to work one year following high school, and on the advice of my dad, I decided to enroll at CCRI. I enjoyed the academic challenge and decided to play on the baseball team. I have some great memories at CCRI and especially enjoyed meeting faculty such as Fr. Bill Macera, Mary O'Neil, Whitey Fell, and many other faculty members that I was privileged to have as a student. I have been truly blessed, and it all started at the Community College of Rhode Island.

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Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient

EMERGING SQUIRE

NAME: MALIDA KHIM

CLASS YEAR: '19

TITLE: Impact Coordinator, CSR & Philanthropy

ORGANIZATION: CVS Health

CCRI gave me the flexibility to take classes at times that worked around my full-time work schedule, allowed me to prioritize time with my daughter, and offered me a learning environment that provided opportunities to ask questions, get to know my professors, and help others grow through the Student Success Center's peer mentoring program.



Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient

EMERGING SQUIRE

NAME: MICHAEL L. KINCH

CLASS YEAR: '94

TITLE: Assistant Administrator

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles

Thanks to the confidence that CCRI instilled in me and the flexibility of the class schedule that allowed me to graduate, I continued my education at Roger Williams University, where I received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice allowing me to advance in my law enforcement career. After serving 14 years in the Cumberland Police Department, I was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief of Police, which was the second in command of the department. I held this position until my retirement in 2013. Upon completing my law enforcement career and knowing that I wanted to continue my public service, I was elected to the Cumberland Town Council in 2018. In 2020 I was re-elected to the Town Council and had the honor of being elected the Town Council President by my fellow council members. These personal achievements would not have been possible without CCRI. Thank you CCRI for being there for me and I am forever grateful.



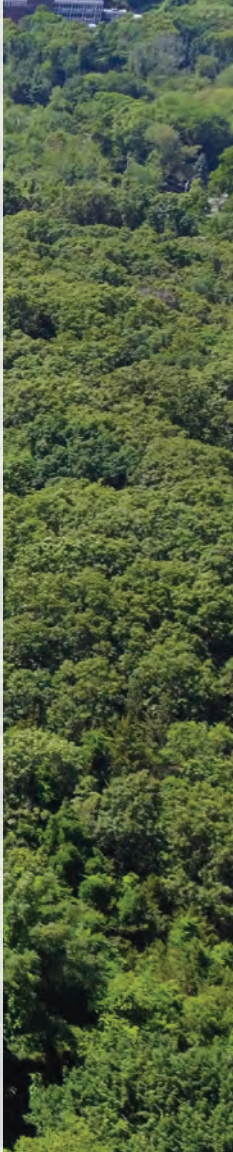
Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient



University College of Rhode Island



Recognizing the power of alumni



POWER MOVER

NAME: ROSEMARY A. COSTIGAN PH.D., R.N.

CLASS YEAR: '78

TITLE: Interim President

ORGANIZATION: Community College of Rhode Island

I chose CCRI because of the reputation of its nursing program. I was anxious to get started in the profession of nursing, and the community college program was a two-year program enabling its graduates to take the NCLEX-RN exam. It was the best choice for me. I found faculty ready and willing to support a first-generation college student making her way through the higher education system and supporting my success at every juncture. Graduating from then Rhode Island Junior College set me on path of life-long learning and a commitment to professional excellence. It enabled me to have two fulfilling careers; one as a registered nurse for more than 20 years and a second career as an educator of future nurses. Graduating from CCRI set me on a path that has resulted in me believing in myself and my abilities, leading to a most fulfilling experience as its interim president”



Power Mover

POWER MOVER

NAME: DAVID ALMONTE, CPA, CGMA

CLASS YEAR: '07

TITLE: Financial Planning and Analysis Senior Manager

ORGANIZATION: Amica Mutual Insurance Company

Attending CCRI was a pivotal step in my life. I was searching for a great education and an environment in which I could find myself. CCRI provided me with both. The education I received was instrumental in my success. I also played soccer at CCRI and met my future wife – truly a life-changing experience on so many levels!



Power Mover

Meet your CCRI Alumni Association

The CCRI Alumni Association hereby adopts the principles of the Mission of the College. We are further dedicated to the development of alumni programs designed to encourage and support new students, recent graduates, the alumni, faculty and staff of the Community College of Rhode Island.

The Association provides economic support to the current students along with lifetime networking opportunities and career guidance to all alumni. When appropriate to do so, we advocate on behalf of the College, its faculty and staff in all forums. Our Association will facilitate mutual growth to support and benefit the alumni, the College, its students, and the community in a manner that enriches the lives of our members and the quality of the College.



Alumni Association

Officers:

Jeffrey C. Wright, Jr. '08

President

Thomas W. Quinlan '96

Treasurer

Malida Khim '19

Alumni Diversity Council Chair

Antonia "Toni" G. McGuire '75,

MPH, RN

Immediate Past President

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Ezenwayi C. Amaechi Ejiribe, Ph.D. '02

Adam A. Arabian '06

Senator Sandra C. Cano '04

Kathleen A. Charbonneau '83

David P. Chy '13

Aida P. Crosson '89

Alexandra "Allie" D. Curtis '19

Jason R. Doyle '11

Lawrence "Larry" T. Gemma '77

Mariela Lucaj '18

Lisa A. Miranda '02

Sondra V. Pitts '66

Mayor Maria Rivera '99

Louis J. Saccoccio, Jr. '68

Sergio E. Sousa '04

Kinzel A. Thomas '10

Senator David P. Tikoian '89

CCRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION —
President

NAME: JEFFREY C. WRIGHT, JR.

CLASS YEAR: '08

TITLE: Assistant Principal

ORGANIZATION: Providence Public School District

Directly connecting with individuals who have faced similar hardships and guiding them through their journeys brings me immense joy. I share my experiences of providing guidance in and out of the classroom, always emphasizing that each person has their own unique path. “Your journey is your journey and no one else’s.” These words have brought relief to many, reminding me of the power of a single story. I am grateful to be in a position where I can continue to significantly impact the lives of many. My journey as an educator may have been non-traditional, but the impact it has left continues to be profound.



CCRI Alumni Association

CCRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION —
Immediate Past-President

NAME: ANTONIA “TONI” G. MCGUIRE MPH, RN

CLASS YEAR: ’75

TITLE: Senior Technical Advisor

ORGANIZATION: JSI

I didn’t go to college right out of high school, I got a job at RI Hospital, where I discovered my a love of health professions. I entered CCRI as a first step that became my cornerstone. I graduated with an Associate Degree in Nursing, went on to get a Bachelor’s Degree and eventually a Master’s Degree in Public Health. I spent my career of 40 years working with populations that need care the most and seek it least. While my career started with caring for one person at a time, I eventually became the Chief Executive Officer of the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center, where a combination of medical, behavioral health and dental providers oversaw the care of 30,000 patients in Central Massachusetts.



CCRI Alumni Association

CCRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NAME: THE HONORABLE SANDRA CANO

CLASS YEAR: '04

TITLE: Rhode Island State Senate, Director of Commerce

ORGANIZATION: City of Pawtucket

I arrived in Rhode Island as a refugee, and CCRI provided the critical support and inspiration that set me on a path to success. The college offered affordable, accessible English courses, as well as the advice and mentoring I needed to reach my goals. The faculty and staff truly made me feel like part of the family.



CCRI Alumni Association

CCRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NAME: ALEXANDRA CURTIS

CLASS YEAR: '19

TITLE: Public Affairs Officer

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island National Guard

As a service member in the Rhode Island National Guard, I was able to attend at no cost, so it was an easy choice for me to continue to pursue higher education. I also was able to see my dad earn a degree from CCRI after facing unemployment, and using a state unemployment benefit which inspired me and showed me there's always more to learn! I believe community colleges are the greatest community treasure we have, as they make education accessible and affordable. My professors were always so understanding of the demands on student service members and always worked with me to ensure I could be successful in the classroom and in the Army!



CCRI Alumni Association

CCRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NAME: DAVID CHY

CLASS YEAR: '13

TITLE: Director, Office of the President

ORGANIZATION: National Wildlife Federation

CCRI helped me become the first in my family to graduate college, and, more importantly, do so without debt. CCRI offered a much lower rate of tuition, flexible scheduling that allowed me to maintain jobs in addition to my studies, and small class sizes that allowed for more personalized interactions with professors and classmates. Without question, CCRI helped prepare me for further opportunities in education and beyond.



CCRI Alumni Association

CCRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NAME: JASON R. DOYLE

CLASS YEAR: '11

TITLE: CEO/Partner

ORGANIZATION: Oakwood Legacy Partners

Fortunately, or unfortunately, a back injury that I sustained in Iraq in 2003 began to cause me major issues and this led to the Air Force to begin the process of medically retiring me. Seeing the writing on the wall, I began planning for my exit from the service and resumed full-time classes at CCRI, while working full-time at night until my eventual discharge from the military. In the summer of 2011, I completed my degree in General Studies and was discharged from the military. I look back on this now as the cornerstone of my educational journey and current career.



CCRI Alumni Association

CCRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NAME: LAWRENCE “LARRY” T. GEMMA

CLASS YEAR: '77

TITLE: Owner

ORGANIZATION: Gem Plumbing/Heating/AC
and Electric Services, LLC

It gave me my start in life and college and life long friends. CCRI was the best decision out of high school I could have made.



CCRI Alumni Association

CCRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NAME: MARIELA LUCAJ

CLASS YEAR: '18

TITLE: Senior Quality Performance Associate

ORGANIZATION: athenahealth

I imagine my life would be very different if the CCRI path wasn't available for me. Following graduation in 2018, I worked as a registered nurse at Rhode Island hospital while obtaining my BSN at URI online. During the pandemic I took my degree across state lines and worked as a crisis relief travel nurse aiding hospitals in critical need across the country. My curiosity of the healthcare industry led me to advance my degree with an MBA at Northeastern University concentrating on healthcare and analytics. I now work at Athenahealth, advising inpatient clinics across the nation on improving quality care for their patients. It is a rewarding experience to look back at my career so far and observe the incredible opportunities awarded to me by CCRI. I am forever grateful!



CCRI Alumni Association

CCRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NAME: LISA A. MIRANDA

CLASS YEAR: '02

TITLE: Owner/Director of Marketing and Operations

ORGANIZATION: HouseMaster Home Inspections

I chose CCRI for its convenient campuses, intimate class sizes, and outstanding faculty and staff. The admissions director I collaborated with made the application process seamless, which was invaluable as I was balancing family responsibilities and a full-time job. My journey from CCRI to a full-time job at Brown University and eventually entrepreneurship exemplifies the power of perseverance and determination. Despite juggling familial obligations and a demanding job, I pursued my education and seized opportunities for growth. Each step of the way, I've been empowered by the support of mentors, colleagues, and loved ones, fueling my passion for continuous improvement and service to others.



CCRI Alumni Association

CCRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NAME: SONDRA V. PITTS

CLASS YEAR: '66

TITLE: Retired Educator

ORGANIZATION: Cranston Public Schools

I chose CCRI (RIJC) because I couldn't attend a four-year college due to financial constraints. I am a proud member of the College's first graduating class in 1966. Attaining my associate degree enabled me to enroll at Southern Connecticut State University (College) and graduate as a member of the Class of 1968 with a Bachelor of Science degree. I began my teaching career at a public school in Cranston, RI. Afterwards, during my husband's military service, I taught school in Falls Church, VA and later, during his deployment overseas, was a tutor to students in Rota, Spain. Upon our return to the states, I taught the Armenian language, history and culture in the Language School at Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church for over 26 years, serving as its principal for seven years. CCRI provided me with the tools to further my education, serve my community and enrich the lives of many children. Teaching is a noble profession that I would not have been able to pursue without the education, encouragement and tools for success that I received at CCRI.



CCRI Alumni Association

CCRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NAME: THE HONORABLE MARIA RIVERA

CLASS YEAR: '99

TITLE: Mayor

ORGANIZATION: City of Central Falls

I'll never forget when I first decided to enroll at CCRI after taking a year off after graduating from high school. I don't recall having any mentors in high school or in my teenage years. College was not an option for me. While working three jobs my first year after high school, I knew this was not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I drove myself to CCRI, picked up some information, and finally enrolled. I'm not going to lie, I had no idea what to expect or what I was setting myself up for, but it was the best decision I had made for myself at that time. I was the first to graduate from my family, but not the last. CCRI had such an impact on my life and allowed me to have an open mind for opportunities, and today, I'm the Mayor of Central Falls. The best thing is knowing we are a family and feeling appreciated and welcomed after 25 years. Gracias CCRI.



CCRI Alumni Association

CCRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NAME: LOUIS J. SACCOCCIO JR.

CLASS YEAR: '68

TITLE: Retired General Counsel

ORGANIZATION: University of Rhode Island

At the time I applied for admission in 1966, CCRI was actually Rhode Island Junior College. I was in the third graduating class. I had not given college a lot of thought in high school until my senior year. As a result I lacked the necessary courses and credits to be eligible for admission to traditional four year institutions. The Junior college provided me and other students like me the opportunity to go to college. I did well as a junior college student. I received my Associate in Arts degree and was admitted to the University of Rhode Island where I was a dean's list student and received my bachelor's degree in political science. I went on to law school and received my Juris Doctors degree in 1974. I maintained a private law practice for the next 16 years and spent the last 30 years as legal counsel for the University of Rhode Island, twenty-five I served as the General Counsel.

Needless to say, none of this would have been possible without the Community College of Rhode Island.



CCRI Alumni Association

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND

CCRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NAME: SERGIO E. SOUSA

CLASS YEAR: '04

TITLE: Regional Vice President of Marketing

ORGANIZATION: Bally's

My experience at CCRI provided me with the confidence to believe in myself. I knew early on that learning was something that did not come naturally to me, but looking back at my time at school and how I was able to cultivate the intestinal fortitude to see that I am truly capable of achieving at the highest levels is the ultimate reward. I accomplished that with the support and dedication of so many brilliant professors along the way. I will never forget an accounting class, where I found myself asking many questions, especially in relation to things I did not fully comprehend. In a memory burn moment for me, in one particular class, I asked the professor a question and multiple students in the class giggled. The professor quickly addressed the class by stating “Laugh all you want. Although most (if not all) of you will go on to have great careers and experience much success after school is done, rest assured, the person asking that question will most likely be your boss.” The professor went on to explain that I was asking the right questions and that my strategic mindset was not something that is easily developed. For the first time in my life, I felt empowered and capable.



CCRI Alumni Association

CCRI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NAME: KINZEL THOMAS

CLASS YEAR: '10

TITLE: Clinical Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: Family Service of Rhode Island

CCRI provided me with the confidence to pursue my educational journey. The faculty believed I could succeed in and out of the classroom and motivated me to reach for my goals. I chose CCRI because it is conveniently located in my neighborhood, providing residents like myself the opportunity to move forward. With so many resources to help you along the way, CCRI is the logical choice.



CCRI Alumni Association

Thank you.

Your generous donation supports our tenacious students and our rigorous academic programs.

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Ways to give back.

Are you looking to make an impact
in Rhode Island's community?

Invest and empower CCRI students!

We are looking for leaders like **YOU**
to become volunteers and make a
positive impact in our students and
adult learners' lives.

CCRI volunteer programs inspire and encourage our future generations, providing students the opportunity to meet with corporate and community leaders.

These opportunities will support our students through motivation, resilience and career exploration. Our goal for the volunteer program is to bring new resources and opportunities and to help our students to achieve their goal. Make a difference, enable and empower young adult learners with career opportunities.

CCRI volunteer programs include:

- **Coaching4Success.** Your commitment today will impact Rhode Island’s tomorrow.
- **Guest Speaker.** Inspire and motivate CCRI students – tell your story.
- **Classroom Contributor.** An invitation into CCRI’s classrooms to stimulate students with your career
- **Professional Development Days.** Help CCRI students prepare for their future.

**GET
INVOLVED!**

Send us a message of interest at alumni@ccri.edu or scan the QR Code for more information.



Meet your Donor Engagement Officer

Robin McDuff '98

Robin serves as your Donor Engagement Officer, effective March 24, 2024

With more than 25 years of dedicated service on the Advancement/Foundation team, Robin will continue to fundraise among colleagues, retirees, and emeriti, as well as grow a portfolio of the College's alumni and volunteers, including the Alumni Association and mentors. You will continue to see the high-caliber events you've come to expect from this team—delivered under Robin's leadership—and you can anticipate amplified communications and scaled volunteer programs to support students.

A champion of CCRI Foundation's annual giving program, Robin will drive marketing campaigns across all platforms to increase giving among her assigned stakeholders. Robin, a perennially student-centered, 1998 graduate of CCRI, began her career at the College as an administrative assistant; she was a critical team member that supported record-fundraising throughout the pandemic, and we are proud of the year-over-year growth of the CCRI Foundation scholarships program that Robin has administered to achieve increased student outcomes and impact.







Alumni Association



Foundation

Raising opportunities for all Rhode Islanders

ccri.edu/alumni