



COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OF RHODE ISLAND

Office of the President

October 19, 2015

To: Jim Purcell, Commissioner of Postsecondary Education

From: Ray M. Di Pasquale, President, Community College of Rhode Island

Re: **FY2017 Current Service Level (CSL) Budget Request Revised**

CCRI is resubmitting the FY2017 Current Service Level Budget Request as directed by the Council for Postsecondary Education on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. Totaling \$114,600,379, in lieu of any increase in tuition, the cost of funding the unrestricted Current Service Level budget is added to state appropriation. This would require an increase over the current year of 9.6% or \$4,754,980. This model would also increase the state's share of CCRI's unrestricted budget to 46.6% of the total and reduce the share of tuition and fees to 49.4%, net of GO debt. This would be the first time since 2010 that tuition and fees have supported less than 50% of the unrestricted budget.

Based on a targeted enrollment of 118 more full time FTE students and a decrease of 136 part-time FTE's, tuition and fees would yield a total of \$55,805,064, a decrease in tuition revenues of \$894,826 over the current FY16 Allocation. There is also a net decline in other unrestricted college revenues of \$69,582 from reduced grant indirect cost revenues.

EXPENDITURES

The unrestricted current service level request totals \$114,600,379, a total increase of \$3,790,572 over the current fiscal year. This budget incorporates a 3% cost-of-living (COLA) increase as well as accompanying concessions for Board of Education employees. It does not include a salary adjustment for the State's classified bargaining members as they are subject to a wage re-opener. The community college is also factoring in a COLA for various part-time, non-benefitted employees of the college on whom we greatly rely but who have also not had an increase in their wages since 2011. The FY17 budget also funds additional sections of linked co-requisite sections of the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) designed and proven to improve retention and persistence rates of students enrolled in writing courses. These combined factors increase personnel services expenditures by \$2,238,268 – an increase of 2.6% and 59% of the total recommended increase in expenditures.

The bulk of the remaining expenditure increase, \$1,146,624, addresses two major budgetary areas. An additional \$54,531 was added to increase CCRI need-based college sourced scholarships and \$275,000 was added to provide start-up funding for a new merit based scholarship program. The new program is intended to incentivize students to remain full-time and to graduate timely. Full-time students who successfully earned 24 credits after two semesters and achieve a 3.0 GPA will be eligible for a \$500 incentive scholarship for their subsequent three semesters conditional on full-time enrollment, maintenance of GPA and timely graduation.

The capital budget is being increased by \$817,093. These funds are used to fund the five year replacement cycle of computers in academic, student service and administrative departments; to fund improvements to our administrative software and hardware systems – including measures to protect our data from cyber security threats and systems that improve college efficiencies; improvements and replacements of academic based equipment especially in the health and science departments; and replacement of student and office furnishings.

TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

The Table of Organization reflects in FY16 the redistribution of 5 FTE's from third-party funding to unrestricted funding while still in keeping with the total Legislative FTE cap total of 854.10 positions.

In the FY17 CSL Request, CCRI is not requesting new FTE's, however, additional positions may be requested to staff the proposed Westerly training center that will over seen by the OPC. This budget request in its entirety will be made under separate cover.

RESTRICTED & AUXILIARY

CCRI's four campuses, both internally and externally, require a large proportion of the operational budget each year to maintain our facilities. CCRI is grateful for the opportunity to submit several important projects subject to RICAP funding as part of the Capital Improvement Plan recently considered by the Postsecondary Council. Such funding would alleviate the necessity of allocating such funds from the unrestricted budget and reduces the burden on the CSL budget request. High priority in the CIP is partial funding from RICAP of the Warwick Chemistry and Biology labs. Such a project requires considerable forward planning especially as pertains to the alternative scheduling of classes. The two department chairs have agreed to a plan that would allow for construction to begin directly after commencement of May 2016 with work continuing through the subsequent fall semester. The fall15 semester began with a ribbon cutting for a similar project recently completed for the Art labs.

In addition to annual Asset Protection funding, which is vital to maintaining our campus facilities, there is continued funding of \$2M for the Warwick Renewal project as part of the Capital Improvement Plan. CCRI is also committing funds made available through the redeeming of the 1977 auxiliary bond toward appropriate direct student service improvements of the Warwick renewal project such as the student union.

The CCRI Bookstore continues to be an enterprise that is profitable, responsive and student centered. Management continues to work with academic faculty to offer text alternatives to students at varying affordability levels. In concert with the Financial Aid office, Pell awards are made available to students directly and can also be used to purchase bus passes. The Bookstore annually makes modest improvements in the retail layout of each of its stores including recent security camera updates. This retail environment continues to engage in PCI compliance such as the new chip credit card technology and has membership on the college Security Workforce Action Team (SWAT).

CCRI continues to be successful in the obtainment and sustainment of state and federal grants. Federal, state and private grants are anticipated at \$4.4 million in FY17. We are waiting to hear on potential private Champlin Foundations for funding of equipment for the new Simulation lab

currently under construction at the Lincoln campus. This hands-on learning environment would be utilized across nursing and allied health disciplines and be a state of the art training and support center for an important source of health care workers for the state. CCRI is a strategic partner in six of the 21 Real Jobs RI planning grants through the Department of Labor and Training covering areas from information technology to hospitality, health care, banking and insurance. We look forward to the training opportunities that these grants may present. In addition, CCRI's federal TRIO grants, in excess of \$1.6M per year, recently received renewal.

Financial aid experience in last academic year indicated that 70% of CCRI students had a zero EFC (Expected Family Contribution) making them eligible for the maximum Pell award for credits enrolled. This would appear to remain unchanged with the proposed tuition and fee schedule for FY17. The current maximum Pell award is \$5,730 per year. Last fiscal year, eligible students at CCRI were the recipients of \$28.6M in Pell, SEOG and federal college work study funding.

The re-structuring of the RI State Grant program under the OPC has made available in FY16 a total of \$3.3M to CCRI students versus \$1.8M in FY15. The changes in this funding level as well as the distribution strategies will nearly double the number of needy students taking at least six credits being able to be awarded sufficient aid from state and federal grants to cover the cost of the tuition, fees and books.

SUMMARY

CCRI fully respects the state's fiscal condition and the difficult decisions that must be made every year. We are particularly grateful for the State support to the Higher Education system over the last two years – clearly a commitment to public higher education has been made.

CCRI's Strategic Plan 2013 – 2016 was predicated upon seven major themes, forming the focus of the FY17 CSL Budget submitted by the Community College of Rhode Island:

- Student Success
- Economic Demand
- Innovation
- Effectiveness
- Affordability
- Leadership and
- Community

The college's core mission and strategic vision is to continue to produce an ever increasing number of community college graduates – currently at 66,901 students - and transfer students who contribute substantially to the Rhode Island economy. As ever we request the state's support and investment in Rhode Island's entry access to higher education.

CCRI represents the most affordable and accessible option for 16,000+ students *every* semester and our non-credit and public service programs serve another 35,000 Rhode Islanders annually. This takes an enormous toll on our facilities, on the equipment and labs serving students, even on the faculty and staff when we are forced to be under staffed to meet budget expectations. At 37%, CCRI'S reported minority student population is the highest in Rhode Island yet the diversity of our faculty and staff does not reflect this figure – a strategic goal for this institution

is to improve this representation in spite of great competition for such faculty and staff. With a very high percentage of part-time enrollees, these students take longer to graduate – but the persistence rate of these students and our full-time students indicate that they do meet their goals to graduate and transfer beyond those timeframes suggested by national data sets. Improved staffing, additional technological tools, and improved analytics, must be employed by the college to facilitate student persistence and retention and reduce their time to completion.

The college looks forward to collaborating with the Council in a shared strategic vision. I am sure that the next president of this institution will honor the same intent and commitment made to our students by yourselves.

c: S. LaPanne
D. Patten
R. Barrington