

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** angie escalante <escalanteangie@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 9, 2020 11:34 AM  
**To:** Chris O'Brien  
**Subject:** In Support of RI Promise

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Angie Escalante. I graduated with my Associates in General Business at the Community College of Rhode Island. After my graduation, I will be continuing my education at Johnson and Wales University with the anticipated graduation date of 2022. I am disappointed that the Rhode Island Promise program has to be a scholarship that we, the students, have to constantly keep fighting for. The Rhode Island Promise Scholarship should become permanent.

My mother crossed the Mexican border when she was nineteen. She had a long journey coming from her original country. Her journey began in Guatemala on a truck. This bus was the beginning of her journey to the American Dream. She crossed the border when she was six months pregnant with me. She left behind her two year old son so that I could live out the American Dream. My mother had never heard of college or university because my family could never afford it.

When I was completing my final year at Classical High School, I felt as though I was a failure. All of my friends around me had received full scholarships and grants to attend top universities. Unfortunately, because of my grades I was unable to attain any scholarships except for one, The Rhode Island Promise. This scholarship gave me a glimpse of hope. Prior to the scholarship, my future was questionable because I had absolutely no money for school.

Once I began my educational career at CCRI I joined Collegiate DECA and became President of the organization. DECA gave me the opportunity to network and travel.

I am sharing with you my story because there are more kids like me who deserve a chance. If I did not receive the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship I would not have been able to continue my education. I would have felt like a failure to not only my family's sacrifice but to my own self. For the sake of those students who feel hopeless, give them the opportunity of a free education with the Rhode Island Promise. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns please feel free to contact my personal cellphone at 401-626-8209. Thank you

Sincerely,  
Angie Escalante  
First Generation Guatemalan American  
CCRI 2020 Graduate