

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Boutier, Maria E. <mboutier@ric.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 12:06 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Governor's APRA Capital Fund Proposal

**Importance:** High

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the House Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Professional Staff Association at Rhode Island College, I am writing to express our full support for the Governor's APRA Capital Fund project proposal for a Student Services Center on the Campus of Rhode Island College (RIC), which is being heard in your committee today, Tuesday February 8, 2022 at the rise of the House.

This project would centralize critical services for RIC students, which are currently scattered around the campus, into a modern "One-Stop" center. Over the last several decades, higher education institutions across the country have effectively incorporated such student service centers to support students, their success and degree completion.

The proposed Student Services Center at RIC will include:

- Records
- Financial Aid
- Bursar
- Counseling Center
- Health Services
- Military Resource Center

The centrally located building will be accessible online, at night and on weekends to accommodate our growing percentage of adult and working students. It will also improve RIC employees' work environments and provide them with the tools and technology they deserve and need in their service to students.

This is a tremendous opportunity for Rhode Island College to remove barriers and make sure students absolutely have access to services vital to their college success. Students of all backgrounds face difficulties navigating the college, and when that involves financial aid, health services or counseling, the results can truly harm a student's academic progression.

We thank you for your continued support of Rhode Island College and ask that you support this important investment for our students.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Maria Boutier*  
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