



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner  
80 Washington Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Enclosure 9h.  
May 6, 2015

May 1, 2015

**Barbara Cottam**  
Chair

To: Members of the Council on Postsecondary Education

**Council on Elementary and  
Secondary Education**

From: Commissioner Jim Purcell, Ed.D 

Subject: Establishment of the Center for Design, Innovation and  
Advanced Manufacturing

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Rhode Island College is seeking approval for the Center for Design, Innovation, and Advanced Manufacturing. This Center will support the intent of the new WAVE initiative announced by Governor Raimondo.

Background

Rhode Island College is seeking to establish a Design, Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing Center. The college states that this center is a reopening and renaming of a previously closed entity. The Board of Governors for Higher Education approved a proposal from Rhode Island College to establish the Center for Industrial Technology on January 19, 1988. The College merged the Department of Economics and Management with the Industrial Technology program in 1994 and the Center for Industrial Technology, becoming the Center for Management and Technology. The Center for Management and Technology became the School of Management and Technology in 2002. In 2009, the Board approved the elimination of the Center for Management and Technology as part of achieving program consolidation and cost-containment measures.

Rationale

RIC's proposal states that the mission of the Center is to provide access, assistance and inter-disciplinary research to educate and build a skilled STEM pipeline of future professionals to meet the needs of business and industry in Rhode Island. Further, in its vision statement, the college notes that the Rhode Island College Design, Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing Center will be a central collaborative hub where new ideas and applications can be tested, implemented and disseminated.

The college identifies the following goals for the Center for Design, Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing:

- To partner with industry to provide services, workforce training, and recruitment opportunities using transformational technology
- To develop innovative applications through basic and applied research for education and industry
- To create advanced manufacturing learning opportunities that engage participants in creative applications of knowledge, technology and skills to research and solve real-world problems using cross-disciplinary strategies

#### Facility and equipment

The center will use space previously used by the Center for Industrial Technology. The center currently has two new commercial quality 3-D printers, a laser cutter, a pneumatic trainer, and CNC router. Donors have contributed \$175,000 which paid for this equipment. Another group of donors has committed \$1m of which \$600,000 has been received.

#### Staffing

Dr. Charles McLaughlin, who has directed the Technology in Education Program, has been overseeing the new center with the assistance of a graduate student. Staffing will be added as the center secures business. The college will secure contracts, grants, and tuition-generating certificate programs as sources of revenue.

The motion:

***THAT the Council on Postsecondary Education approves the request from Rhode Island College for the establishment of the Center for Design, Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing.***



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**RHODE ISLAND  
COLLEGE**

TO: Commissioner Purcell

President

FROM: Nancy Carriuolo *nc*

DATE: May 3, 2015

RE: Reopening of Center

**Approval Sought:** In keeping with Governor Raimondo's new WAVE initiative, RIC seeks to reopen and rename a center devoted to technology: The Center for Design, Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing. Recent donors have pledged \$1M (of which over \$600,000 has been received) to support equipment purchases for the center. The board's policy has always been to allow centers up to three years to operate without approval. Therefore, in the past year RIC has been making modest (\$175,000) equipment purchases (with donations received prior to the \$1M gift) in order to be ready to reopen the center. The college is now ready to seek approval.

**Background:** A proposal for the establishment of the Center for Industrial Technology at RIC was approved by the RI Board of Governors for Higher Education on January 19, 1988. In addition, the motion called for a status update on the center in 1992 as a means of measuring the progress made by Rhode Island College (RIC) toward the establishment of a School of Management and Industrial Technology.

On February 3, 1994, the board approved the merging of the Department of Economics and Management with the Industrial Technology Program into a new Center for Management and Technology.

The board approved the elimination of the Center for Management and Technology on June 29, 2009, as part of achieving program consolidation and cost-containment measures.

**Equipment:** The center has two new commercial quality 3-D printers (with a companion printer in the arts department), a laser cutter, a pneumatic trainer, and CNC Router. The purchases have totaled in the last six months approximately \$175,000 thanks to the generosity of President Carriuolo's donors. Another small group of her donors has committed to \$1M, over \$600,000 of which has thus far been received, with the final payment awaiting determination of the needs of the business community.

**Space and Current Staff:** The area in Whipple Hall, where the original center was housed, has continued over the years to be the home for the teaching of technology under the supervision of Dr. Charles McLaughlin, whose Ph.D. is Technology Education from the University of Maryland – College Park. His program called Technology Education prepares K-12 teachers of technology as well as students who wish to pursue careers in technology.

In addition to Dr. McLaughlin, who has been overseeing the reinvigorated center's equipment purchases, Aleksander Todorovich, a graduate student, has been assisting in operating the center. A donor has funded his work and study program for the next year. The following year, he will apply for a graduate assistantship in the center while he continues his graduate studies.

**Future Staffing:** Staffing of the center will be ramped up when the center begins to secure additional business. We await the governor's new initiative that will put businesses at the center of development of the economy. RIC will make purchases and hire staff to meet their expressed needs, as Governor Raimondo has proposed. Contracts, grants, and tuition-generating certificate programs will be sources of revenue to continue to build the center.

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**Rhode Island College**  
**Design, Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing Center**

**Vision:**

The Rhode Island College Design, Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing Center will be a central collaborative hub where new ideas and applications can be tested, implemented and disseminated.

**Mission:**

The Rhode Island College Design and Advanced Manufacturing Center will provide access, assistance and inter-disciplinary research to educate and build a skilled STEM pipeline of future professionals to meet the needs of business and industry in Rhode Island.

**Goal 1**

To partner with industry to provide services, workforce training and recruitment opportunities using transformational technology

**Goal 2**

To develop innovative applications through basic and applied research for education and industry

**Goal 3**

To create advanced manufacturing learning opportunities that engage participants in creative applications of knowledge, technology and skills to research and solve real-world problems using cross-disciplinary strategies