

welcome, Governors.

The fastest-growing industries in the U.S. are very different than they were when I was growing up in northern Rhode Island, not far from the birthplace of America's Industrial Revolution. With the relentless pace of technological change, the blurring distinction between manufacturing and services, and increasing digitization, these industries are even different than they were two years ago, when I was sworn in as Rhode Island's governor.



There are a number of states that are or were in the same position as Rhode Island was after the Great Recession — weakened by the decline of some of our core industries. But since my administration shifted our state's focus onto innovation, more than a dozen companies and new developments have committed to directly and indirectly bring over 2,000 new jobs to Rhode Island through expansion or relocation. These include familiar names in life sciences, high tech and beyond: General Electric, eMoney Advisor, Virgin Pulse — the health and wellness branch of Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Group — and life sciences giant Johnson & Johnson will all soon arrive here. By the time the Consumer Technology Association released its 2016 Innovation Scorecard, Rhode Island had improved to the Innovation Leader category.

While Rhode Island has always been known for our world-class network of colleges and universities, we've recently invested more deeply in training workers for a 21st century economy by rolling out education and skills development programs like P-TECH, CS4RI and the Wavemaker Fellowship. This past March we hosted three days of manufacturing- and

maker-focused pop-ups for residents, and we've also activated incentives like our Innovation Vouchers, which allow eligible companies to fund R&D assistance from a R.I. university, research center or medical center. Additionally, our Industry Cluster Grants now encourage companies in the same sector to work together to solve problems, exchange ideas and develop talent.

The CTA Innovation Scorecard is one of the ways those of us in Rhode Island have been grading ourselves on all of the work we've done in recent years to improve our business climate. In 2017, we either maintained or boosted grades in all 10 CTA Scorecard categories in 2017. Most notably, our Welcomes New Business Models grade rose to an 'A-' from a 'B' grade in 2016 — proof that it's been a big year for business in the nation's smallest state.

I invite you to take a close look at your own state's Innovation Scorecard. The insights it can provide into your future are invaluable.

Gina M. Raimondo



Governor,
Rhode Island