



## NEWS RELEASE

Media Relations  
124 Sakonnet BLVD  
Narragansett, RI 02882  
631-885-0973

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Contact:

Jacqueline Atkins  
#Quad13 Coordinator  
631-885-0973  
[Jacqueline.d.atkins@gmail.com](mailto:Jacqueline.d.atkins@gmail.com)

#### **University of Rhode Island Students Fight to Bring Commencement Back to the Quad**

**KINGSTON, RI – May 8, 2013** – Outraged students at the University of Rhode Island are working together to bring the 2013 Commencement Ceremonies back to the Quad. URI did not release this change until the morning of May 8th. For students who have friends and family coming from all over, this change is not okay! #Quad13 is working to move commencement back to where it has always been, the Quad, so all our loved ones can be with us to celebrate our achievements! We have created a petition to help show URI administration how much this matters to students.

College graduation is one of the most important days of our young adult lives. We have spent countless hours working to get to this moment. We want everyone to be able to share it with us. #Quad13 is hoping to show the University why graduating on the quad is important. In a way it is a rite of passage. We start our URI experience on the quad at Orientation and we are supposed to end it the same way. Students have voiced their opinions on the matter through writing comments on the petition. One student Rachel McAtee says, “Graduating college is no small feat. For the seniors, that moment isn’t something that should have to be shared with a limited number of family or friends, as there is no saying how many individuals significantly impacted their journey. Their loved ones deserve it just as much as they do.” In light of recent events we understand that safety is important, but there is a difference between being cautious and being paranoid. Other schools, even ones located in Boston are having their Commencement Ceremonies outside, so we think URI should too! Rita Giacomelli, a relative to one of the students said, “My cousin Jaime is really close to all of us and this is the highlight of her life. I survived the 911 Trade Center disaster and I refuse to live my life in fear..... CAUTION and preparation is okay but fear can’t be part of the equation.”

For more information please visit <http://www.sitmonkey.com/quad13.html> and to see the petition log onto <https://www.change.org/petitions/president-dooley-and-the-uri-administration-move-the-university-of-rhode-island-s-class-of-2013-back-to-the-quad>

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