

BRIDGES

INTRODUCTION

Join Us! ALC Afterschool Day at the Rhode Island State House

In October 2016, ALC used our Lights on Afterschool event to kick-off a year of focusing on the theme of “Everyone’s an Advocate!” We continued to explore the theme and develop advocacy skills at the December and March ALC membership meetings, designed to build participants’ skills for, comfort with, and experience in advocating at the student, program, and systems levels.

On Thursday, May 25, we’ll have the opportunity to put those new skills into practice! ALC will host an **Afterschool Event at the Rhode Island State House on Thursday, May 25, from 2:30—4:30pm**. Rhode Island programs are invited to join the ALC in hosting information tables about your afterschool programs around the second floor rotunda to engage with key policymakers and present a unified message of the incredible value of afterschool and summer learning programs, supported by a soon-to-be-released Advocacy Toolkit produced by ALC.

Together, we’ll:

- Educate Rhode Islanders about the value of afterschool and summer learning programs;
- Advocate for funding for afterschool and summer learning programs; and
- Connect with legislators who create policy that affects your programs!

If you are part of an afterschool program site or partner who is interested in sharing information about your activities and adding your voice to the call to support afterschool in Rhode Island, we still have a few spots available for tables. Please contact [Elana Rosenberg](#) to reserve your spot today! We are hoping for a large presence at the State House, so please consider attending, even if you are unable to commit to tabling. Please help us spread the word about this event to all of your partners and reach out if you have any questions. You can download an invitation to share [here](#).

Best,
Elana Rosenberg

LOCAL & NATIONAL POLICY UPDATES

State Board Association Creates ESSA Tracker *(Education Week)*

As the first deadline for state accountability plans under the Every Student Succeeds Act approached on April 3, many state boards of education held meetings to vote on crucial policies that will dictate, among other things, school accountability systems and how federal dollars are distributed in the coming years.

Curious how state school boards are handling new policies under the Every Student Succeeds Act? The National Association of State Boards of Education recently [launched a website](#) that tracks all 50 states' boards of education meeting minutes regarding ESSA plans.

More than 45 state boards of education have authority over content-standards adoption and 32 state boards have direct authority over the summative assessments—all issues that are part of ESSA plans, and five additional states where the SBE shares authority.

NASBE and the National Conference of State Legislatures have both urged their members to make sure that state board policies and state statutes align with their state ESSA plans. The tracker is categorized by subject and tracks when board members discussed and voted on items such as standards, stakeholder engagement and accountability indicators. You can check out the tracker [here](#).

AROUND THE STATE

Survey Request: Governor's Workforce Board, New Skills for Youth

The Governor's Workforce Board would like to learn from community-based organizations on the work you are doing with K-12 schools and students with regard to career readiness, career awareness and exploration, building career expertise, and work-based learning. Please consider completing the survey found at the link below the GWB's request.

Dear Community-Based Organization,

As you may know, Rhode Island is one of ten states awarded a New Skills for Youth grant from JP Morgan Chase to improve career readiness for our K-12 students and beyond. As part of this grant, the state will implement a three-year action plan called Prepare RI to prepare all students in Rhode Island for future success in college and career, and to provide employers with the workforce they need to succeed in today's and tomorrow's economy.

One of the goals of the plan is to ensure that all students in Kindergarten through 12th grade have opportunities for career awareness and exploration, building career expertise, and work-based learning. We know that many of you are already working with K-12 schools to give students these types of opportunities, and we would love to know about it! We would appreciate if you can complete the survey linked below to tell us about these efforts. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes and can be [found here](#).

Many thanks,
The Governor's Workforce Board

RESEARCH & NEWS

Have something to share? Email Elana.Rosenberg@uwri.org to have your news included in BRIDGES!

Kids Count Fact Book Released



2017 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook

On Monday, April 10, 2017, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT released its twenty-third annual report on the well-being of Rhode Island's children at a policy breakfast attended by over 500 people, including the Governor, Congressional Delegation, and statewide and community leaders. Liz Huntley provided keynote remarks, and the youth speaker was Ritsuko Tani of Young Voices. For more information, please see the [media release](#), [event pictures](#), [Twitter activity](#), and [media coverage](#).

The [2017 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook](#) charts improvements and declines in the well-being of children and youth across the state and in each of Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns and provides the latest available statistics on different aspects of children's lives, from birth through adolescence. This year, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT added a new indicator on [College Enrollment and Completion](#) to the 2017 *Factbook*, bringing the total number of indicators to 72.

Use the links below to explore the *Factbook* sections and data:

- [Family and Community](#)
- [Economic Well-Being](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Safety](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Community Snapshots](#): Compiles information from the annual *Factbook* into an easy-to-read format specific to each city and town in Rhode Island.
- [Executive Summary](#): Pulls out key trends and changes in child well-being from the 2017 *Factbook*.

If you're interested in ordering a copy, please use the [Factbook order form](#) or call (401) 351-9400. The cost of the *Factbook* is \$21.40 (\$20 plus tax); discounts for bulk purchases available.

The Plague of the Broken Crayons and the Heads That Haunted Us

In her essay, [The Plague of the Broken Crayons and the Heads That Haunted Us](#), current National Afterschool Matters Fellow Sara Cole shares how broken crayons help sustain her focus on quality OST experiences for youth.

Sara's essay appears in the Fall 2016 issue of *Afterschool Matters*, a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to promoting professionalism, scholarship and consciousness in the field of afterschool education.

SPOTLIGHT ON ADVOCACY

How Afterschool Programs can Support their Immigrant Students, Families and Community

On Wednesday, April 12, [Afterschool Alliance](#) hosted a webinar to support afterschool programs in addressing concerns about the changing climate towards immigrant students, families, and communities.

In communities across the country, anxiety and concern are growing among immigrant children and families in response to new immigration policies and efforts currently underway. After school programs can play an important role in creating a safe and welcoming environment for immigrant students and families and cultivating a sense of belonging and overall wellbeing.

With guidance and help from the American Constitution Society, this webinar features experts from Legal Services for Children and the National Immigration Law Center who focus on the ways in which afterschool program providers can best support their students and families. Speakers will share the existing rights and protections for students, as well as discuss the steps afterschool program providers can take to make sure that their program is a space where all students feel welcome and secure. A recording of this webinar, along with a variety of other resources, are [available here](#).

FUNDING & PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Social-Emotional Assessment Design Challenge

Deadline: Thursday, April 20, 2017 by 11:59pm PT

The Social-Emotional Assessment Design Challenge is being hosted by the work group for [Establishing Practical Social-Emotional Competence Assessments of Preschool to High School students](#). The work group will award **up to \$5,000 for innovative direct assessments of social-emotional skills**. In particular, the group is seeking **proposals for direct assessments** in which social-emotional competencies are measured **based on a child's performance on a challenging task** or in response to a particular situation. Most current measures rely on student surveys and teacher ratings. Winners will also receive public recognition (featured pieces in blogs, websites, and other media outlets) and inclusion in a professional network dedicated to advancing SE assessment.

They are interested in **applications from those working on an assessment, even one in its early stages**. [Download](#) the Call for Submissions, with complete information about the Design Challenge and instructions for how to apply. A proposal narrative and assessment prototype is due **April 20, 2017 by 11:59 p.m. ET**.

The aim of the design challenge is to stimulate the development of social-emotional assessments that support effective instruction and positive student development.

NoVo Foundation

Deadline: Friday, April 21, 2017 by 11:59pm PT

NoVo Foundation, in partnership with Education First, and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, aims to **seed teacher-led projects and district-wide projects that foster social-emotional skills in students in grades PK-12. They are interested in ideas for new initiatives and those who want to expand or continue an existing project.**

They are offering **up to \$5,000 grant awards for teacher-led projects for the 2017-18 school year, and up to \$25,000 grant awards for district projects that span multiple schools in the 2017-18 school year.** All recipients will have the opportunity to present their work to and connect with a group of national SEL practitioners, experts and advocates at a convening in October 2017.

Proposals are sought from individual educators, teams of educators, and district leaders seeking to improve systems that foster social and emotional skills in fresh, inventive or innovative ways. Examples can include novel interventions or instructional practices focused on improving competencies such as resilience, learning mindsets, compassion, self-management, sense of belonging, and more.

They seek applications that will create places, environments and practices that value belonging, well-being, tolerance, compassion, listening, non-violence, inclusiveness, working productively together, and looking out for one another. NoVo seeks a change from a world based on domination towards collaboration and partnership, and understands that this has to be valued, taught and modeled to and with children in order to make this shift a possibility. **The deadline for applications is Friday, April 21 at 11:59pm PT. Additional information can be [found here](#).**

Request for Proposals Calling for Learning Outside Traditional High School Classrooms

Deadline: Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Webinar for Interested Applicants: Tuesday, April 25, 2017: 3pm to 3:45pm EST

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) has shared an announcement from the Barr Foundation for a request for proposals that may be of interest to Rhode Island local education agencies looking to explore opportunities for school empowerment.

In late March, the [Barr Foundation](#) released a request for proposals (RFP), the next stage of Barr's strategy to support a new vision for high schools and to catalyze innovation across the region. The RFP is intended to identify existing high schools in New England that are interested in the planning and design of whole school models that leverage the wider learning ecosystem and blend the lines between high school, college, career, and the community—not discrete programs or stand-alone interventions. Up to 10 grantees will each receive funding of up to \$300,000.

The opportunity was first introduced in a [blog post](#) on the Barr Foundation website. Prospective applicants may [register here](#) for an upcoming webinar on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

RIDE is willing to provide support to an interested school or group of schools considering submitting a proposal for this opportunity. Please contact Steve Osborn at Stephen.Osborn@ride.ri.gov.

STEM

How to Run a Science-Themed Carnival that Kids will Love and Learn From

Themed events can be an impactful way for members of an Ecosystem or community to work together and make connections with a variety of students. Since 2009, the team at California State University Channel Islands has hosted a Halloween-themed science carnival. Other members of the [VC STEM Ecosystem](#) joined the team to present the [2016 Science Carnival](#). 2,182 parents and PK-8 kids attended and participated in nearly 100 different hands-on STEM experiments, including a brand-new PK zone.



Coordinator Dr. Phil Hampton shares specific suggestions and links to useful sites and tools for planning a science-themed carnival in your own community. If you want to host your own carnival around Halloween, start planning now! [Read more here](#).

Imagine Science

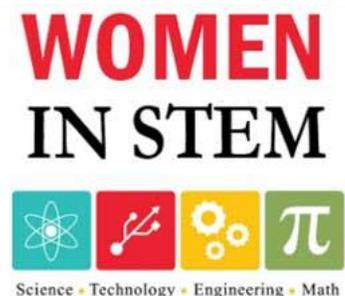
Jim Clark, President and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) was named Chair of the Imagine Science partnership, successor to Jennifer Sirangelo, President & CEO of the National 4-H Council (N4HC). [Imagine Science](#), a partnership of BGCA; N4HC; Girls, Inc.; and the YMCA of the USA, launched in 2015 to increase access to STEM learning in out-of-school time to under-represented youth.

Imagine Science is designed to empower its local partners to tailor outreach efforts and programming to their school and communities' needs and capacities so more youth go on to see STEM as a viable career path. To read more about Imagine Science, its impact to date and plans for scaling up, [read the recently published article](#) in the STEM Read America compendium. Imagine Science is supported by STEM Funders Network partners STEM Next and Motorola Solutions Foundation, and shares the STEM Ecosystems Initiative's focus on unserved youth.

Women in STEM

The challenges facing women in STEM are not insurmountable, but they do present unique obstacles every woman must face throughout college and their career. While women earn roughly half of all bachelor's degrees across STEM fields, they face a pronounced gender gap in computer science and engineering, representing less than 20 percent of graduates. Unfortunately, this gap persists when women enter the workforce representing only [29 percent](#) of science and engineering professionals.

This is why BestCollege.com is excited to share its [Women in STEM](#). This resource features unique perspectives from women who completed STEM programs and includes a listing of [scholarships valued at over \\$100,000](#). Help women in STEM and [share this guide](#).





Professional Development for Educators

Implementing An Evidence-Based Program for Girls: Racial Justice Girls Circle® Facilitator Training

April 27, May 4, May 11, May 17 & 18, 2017

Providence Marriott Downtown: 1 Orms Street, Providence (free parking)

Time: 8am to 4:30pm

Hosted by YWCA Rhode Island

Who Should Attend: *Adults from across all sectors including Education, Community-Based Programs, Juvenile Justice, Mental and Behavioral Health, Child Welfare, Substance Abuse and Gang Prevention Programs, Faith-Based Settings, and more*

[Registration Link](#)

The agenda for the next SEL Community of Practice Meeting will include: A presentation by Bradley staff members Melanie Dubard, PhD, BCBA-D, Clinical Director of Bradley School South County; Caley Arzamarski, PhD, NCSP, Staff Psychologist, Bradley Hospital Outpatient Clinic; and Jennifer Hellmuth, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Bradley School Portsmouth, entitled *Using Data-Based Decision Making in Social and Emotional Learning and the Implementation of PBIS for Students with Significant Challenges*.

This training is centered on informing community members, service providers and educators of the historical and current ways institutional and structural racism impact girls of color and to provide a best proven practice for building resiliency in girls. Workshops will include:

YWCA Racial Justice Series

- Communicating Across Cultures: April 27
- Deconstructing Racism: May 4
- Exploring Privilege: May 11

Girls Circle®

- Theoretical Framework, The Six Step Circle Format, Creating Trust, Bonding & Cohesion, Handling Challenging Group Dynamics: May 17
- Role of the Facilitator, Research, Effective Facilitation Skills, Enhancing Critical Thinking & Healthy Decision Making: May 18

The cost to participate is free (\$100 deposit is required and will be refunded upon successful completion of the program and attendance at all 5 days of training). Actual value of training is \$1,200.

Registration includes Racial Justice and Girls Circle® Facilitator Manuals, continental breakfast and boxed lunch. Attendance required on all training days and a certificate is awarded upon completion on the last day of training. CEUs are also available. To register, please visit www.ywcari.org or call (401) 351-2241.

This project was made possible with support from the Rhode Island Domestic Violence Prevention Fund administered by The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Educator's Open House

Wednesday, May 10, 2017: 4pm to 6pm

International Tennis Hall of Fame: 194 Bellevue Avenue, Newport

[Registration Link](#)

You're invited to join fellow educators at the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport to explore resources offered for enhancing your classroom experience. Curriculum-based programs are available in Social Studies, Science, Math, Geography, Journalism, and Literacy. Additionally, museum admission is free for kids ages 16 and under; free transportation is available. The schedule of events is as follow:

4pm—5pm

- Reception with refreshments
- Tour of the museum
- Meet and greet with staff
- An opportunity to enter to win two tickets to the Dell Technologies Hall of Fame Open

5pm—5:30pm

- Learn about the International Tennis Hall of Fame's Education Programs and hear about student experiences
- Q&A with staff

5:30pm—6pm

- Workshop with the East Bay Educational Collaborative (EBEC)

In this free workshop, you'll learn how the unique partnership between the International Tennis Hall of Fame and the EBEC can provide you with some great resources for the teaching of science and engineering in support of Next Generation Science Standards. [Register for the workshop here.](#)

Lesson plans and details about the International Tennis Hall of Fame's education programs can be found [online](#). Those interested in attending are asked to register online for both the Open House and the Workshop by May 5. For additional information, please contact Doug Stark, Museum Director, at dstark@tennisfame.com or by calling (401) 849-3990. Free parking for the Open House is available at Bellevue Gardens, directly across the street from the International Tennis Hall of Fame main entrance.

Youth Restoration Project 2nd Annual Symposium Set for May 18

Thursday, May 18, 2017: 8am to 2:30pm

Rhode Island College Student Union Ballroom: 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence

[Registration Link](#)

Do you know how to resolve conflict in your community? Learn more at the Youth Restoration Project's 2nd Annual Symposium on Improving Mental & Social Health using Restorative Practices.

Please join hosts Victor Capellan, Central Falls School Superintendent, and The Honorable Judge Judith Savage, ret., for this informative event. You'll learn about the Restorative Practices/Justice concepts, tools, and history, as well as the exciting work already taking place in Rhode Island. The focus is on avoiding or mitigating serious social consequences, such as justice involvement, using Restorative initiatives that build individual and community capacity in such sectors as schools, social services, mental health, law enforcement, courts and other legal settings, and families.

To register for the Symposium, please [click here](#). Pre-registration is \$45; tickets at the door are \$55. Rhode Island College students are free, but must register in advance. A light breakfast and lunch are included. Other financial assistance is available. CEUs are available. A flyer for posting or sharing is available [here](#). For more information, please email info@yrpofri.org.

Trauma-Based, Culturally Competent Care to Children, Adolescents and Families

Thursday, June 8, 2017: 8:45am to 12pm

The Metacomet Country Club: 500 Veterans Memorial Parkway, East Providence

[Registration and Information Link](#)

Bradley Hospital is pleased to announce that the Bradley Hospital Department of Social Work is hosting its first annual Social Work and Counseling Conference. This training is geared towards social workers, mental health counselors, and family therapists in addition to other mental health providers.

World renowned speaker Dr. Kenneth V. Hardy will present the keynote address. Racial trauma is an inescapable by-product of persistent exposure to repressive circumstances that emotionally, psychologically, and physically devastates one's sense of self while simultaneously depleting one's strategies for coping. It is a life altering and debilitating experience that affects countless numbers of people of color over multiple generations. Unfortunately, the failure to consider the interrelationship between racial oppression and trauma limits our ability to work effectively with the people of color who live in the midst of socio-cultural conditions that are injurious to their psyches and souls. Even when clinical work is trauma-informed, it rarely devotes adequate attention to racial oppression and the pervasive trauma associated with it.

At the conclusion of this session, participants should be able to:

- Identify and critically assess the invisible wounds associated with racial trauma;
- Recognize specific strategies designed to effectively treat and/or manage racially-based trauma wounds; and
- Recognize strategies for identifying Self of the Therapist/Provider issues that may facilitate and/or impede the effective management of racially-based trauma issues in the helping and therapeutic relationship.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN: The Maine Event: Creating Positive Climates for Youth

Thursday and Friday, June 29 & 30

**Pre-Conference Summer Training Academy: Thursday, June 28, 2017*

Holiday Inn by the Bay: 88 Spring Street, Portland, Maine

[Registration Link](#)

The Maine Event: Creating Positive Climates for Youth is the 2017 combined annual conference of the Positive Youth Development Institute (PYDI) and the Collaborative for Perpetual Innovation (CPI). For professionals interacting with youth in or out of school, this conference offers the latest in research and practice in creating climates positive for everyone and strategies in social trust and youth development. Come visit the beautiful state of Maine this June.

About the Pre-Conference Summer Training Academy

The Summer Training Academy is a premier pre-conference opportunity sponsored by Bolster Collaborative to improve your work with young people by learning from nationally recognized trainers. These sessions strengthen skills, expand knowledge, and improve practice through the in-depth exploration of content that is not possible in a conference setting. To see this year's Pre-Conference Summer Training Academy offerings, [please click here](#).

Conference Notes:

- Limited scholarships are available. Please call Donna at (207) 642-6270 for details.
- A discount of 10 percent is available for teams of five or more.
- Easy payment options include organizational purchase orders, check, and credit card.
- CEUs (University of Maine) are available for both pre-conference and conference events.

If you are having trouble with any links, please contact Elana Rosenberg at elana.rosenberg@uwri.org or (401) 444-0658.