LIVE UNITED

United Way of Rhode Island

BRIDGES

Register Now For: Girls in STEM Evening Mini-Conference
Thursday, April 14, 2016: 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
United Way of Rhode Island: 50 Valley Street, Providence

Please join us for our first-ever evening mini-conference! The goal of this event is to acknowledge and discuss the barriers that exist for girls in STEM fields, and to collaborate as educators to identify ways to help girls overcome these challenges. The evening will open with a brief keynote by industrial designer and educator, Amy Leidtke, followed by a panel discussion with women in STEM career fields.

Panelists:

- Jill Pipher, ICERM
- Ilona Miko, MikoArtScience
- Simone Palmer, RIDE
- Judith Shepherd, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island
- *Moderator*: Melita Morales, DownCity Design

Following the discussion, attendees will breakout into one of two professional development workshops:

Workshop A
Design Thinkshop: *How Can we Promote Girls in STEAM? Using Participatory Design-Thinking as a Tool for Research and Understanding*
Presenter: Amy Leidtke

This collaborative *Design Thinkshop** session will holistically examine how to make STEAM-infused educational programs more accessible and inclusive to Rhode Island girls. In order to do so, participants will focus on a design-thinking exercise called *Thematic Networks***, generating qualitative information that can be shared within an organization as well as with valued community stakeholders.

**Design Thinkshop:* An educational product created by Amy Leidtke to serve as an interactive hands-on and minds-on experience that ignites essential questions. Participants engage in facilitated design challenges that include a meaningful making/creating experience.
***Thematic Networks* is an analytical, participatory design-thinking tool, one which makes it possible to understand complex problems by examining their parts at multiple scales.

Workshop B
Breaking it Down: ***How is Inquiry and NGSS Related to Positive Youth Development?***
Presenter: Brittney Sandbergen

In this workshop, participants will gain an understanding of inquiry-based learning and the process of selecting appropriate NGSS practices to align with their programs and missions. Participants will then use this foundation to explore the connections with social-emotional learning (SEL) and Positive Youth Development. This workshop will be related to NGSS practices versus content-specific standards, allowing participants more opportunity to delve into the content of their own programs and find connections.

The registration fee for the Girls in STEM Evening Mini-Conference is $15 for non-ALC members and includes keynote, panel, and workshop attendance. Register online here. The registration deadline is 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12.

A special thank you to our Mini-Conference sponsors, the UWRI Women's Leadership Council, the Rhode Island College Youth Development Program, and the Afterschool Leadership Circle for their support.

If you are having trouble with the link above, please paste the following directly into your browser:
https://uwriweb.org/girlsinstem

FEATURE: PASSIONATE PROFESSIONALS

Alicia Gloria, Executive Director, Kids Klub

Throughout the year, *Bridges* will feature interviews with the eight Passionate Professionals honored for their work in the out-of-school-time field at the 13th annual Lights On Afterschool! Breakfast of Champions. This month the spotlight is on **Alicia Gloria**, who is the Executive Director of Kids Klub.

The interview was conducted by Elana Rosenberg and Joseph Morra, and asks questions related to this year's LOA theme of "Passion. Potential. Possibility."

Joseph: What propels your passion in the field?

Alicia: What propels my passion is just seeing the look on a youth's face when they learn something new or they get to try something different, and also teaching staff what I know they can deliver youth, whether it's learning through exploration in hands-on activities or the common core math that nobody really knows how to do nowadays. And seeing them do that, as well. So, not only me teaching, but also teaching others to teach children propels my passion.

Joseph: During your career, what has been an inspiring occasion or event with a young person?

Alicia: This was a hard one; there are a lot. I do children's yoga, and there was a student who was having a hard time in school; behavioral-wise, he was always angry or always upset. So I had him come into my yoga sessions and he learned how to breathe and meditate, and even use his body in a positive manner versus an un-positive manner. After that, he was able to calm himself on his own and really talk to adults about how he was feeling.

Joseph: How does your work create possibilities for young people?

Alicia: It creates possibilities for young people by having them experience things that they don't usually get to experience, whether it's a sport that they wanted to go out and play but their parents don't have the time to take them, or it's seeing animals at the zoo during field trips. This is especially true in Rhode Island, since there are a lot of hidden gems that people don't usually know about, and also exposing them to the world. We did a film festival for the White House and students got to create their own film and had the opportunity to edit it and put it on the White House website. So they get exposure that they wouldn't have the opportunity to do if they weren't in our program.

Joseph: How do you recognize potential in others?

Alicia: I recognize potential in others by just kind of seeing a spark in their eyes. Like if you bring something up and you see it in their eyes, and then expand on that whether it be something in school or whether it be just a different project that they're open to or just anything really. It's just seeing that spark in their eye and expanding upon that.

Joseph: Who do you think recognized your potential?

Alicia: Was it for this or just in general?

Joseph: Just in general.

Alicia: Family, friends, and coaches I would say.

Elana: How could you tell?

Alicia: I could tell just through encouragement.

Joseph: Any particular types of encouragement? How did you know?

Alicia: Verbal encouragement and having them not just solve the problem for me, which I think is huge for youth nowadays. You don't solve the problem; you teach them how to solve the problem. So, helping me figure out how to solve problems and get through things on my own versus just having them do it for me.

Joseph: Not taking the easy route, right?

Alicia: Yeah.

Joseph: Awesome, thank you.

AROUND THE STATE NEWS

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

Using Digital Media to Empower Youth
Saturday, April 16, 2016: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Cumberland Public Library, Hayden Center: 1464 Diamond Hill Road, Cumberland
The Media Smart Libraries are bringing together a group of incredible young adult writers, activists, and bloggers for an afternoon of inspiration and hands-on fun. The ability to create and share information on the Internet can be a powerful experience. This public event brings together a panel of young adults who will tell their stories about using digital media to express themselves in positive ways. Teens, tweens, parents, educators, librarians, and youth group leaders are invited to be inspired! After a panel session in which teens will tell their stories and answer questions, hands-on breakout sessions will follow. To register, please click here. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact Mary Moen at mary_moen@uri.edu.

RESOURCES

Smithsonian Latino Virtual Museum
The Smithsonian Latino Virtual Museum is a great tool for educators and youth to explore Latino history, culture, and art through imagery, music, and short informative videos. But don't just take our word for it. Here's what Maria Miranda Maloney of Mouthfeel Press had to say after her experience:

"The Smithsonian Latino Virtual Museum is perhaps one of the best spaces where artistic expression has thrived since its conception. The space has played a role in 'expanding our experience of other lives, other spaces, and other ways of being.' Upon entering this space, the user whether artist, writer, musician or visitor, becomes a participant."

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Dominion Foundation Invites Proposals for K-12 Energy Education Programs
Each year, the Dominion Foundation, the philanthropic arm of natural energy producer and transporter Dominion, offers grants that provide elementary and secondary educators with the tools they need to revitalize math and science programs.

Through its Dominion K-12 Educational Partnership program, the foundation awards grants of up to $2,500 to encourage the development of new programs aimed at strengthening math and science education through the study of energy and/or the environment. For more information, including a link to the complete RFP, please click here.

Apply Now for a Scholarship through The Rhode Island Foundation
Thanks to the generosity of individuals, families, and organizations that have established scholarship funds at the Foundation, more than $1.5 million is available for students this year. Awards target such diverse areas of study as nursing, the arts, and law; others are available to residents of specific cities and towns, and more. Learn more about the Foundation's Scholarship opportunities here. Spread the word!

Captain Planet Foundation Offering Grants for Hands-On Environmental Education Activities
Application Deadline: September 30, 2016
The mission of the Captain Planet Foundation is to promote and support high-quality educational programs that help children and youth understand and appreciate the natural world through learning experiences that engage them in active, hands-on projects.

Grants are intended to serve as a means of bringing environment-based education to schools and inspiring youth and communities to participate in community service through environmental stewardship activities. The foundation will fund unique and innovative projects that do not precisely match its grant guidelines, but otherwise promote its focus on hands-on environmental activities. The foundation makes grants to United States-based schools and nonprofit environmental and educational organizations with annual operating budgets of less than $3 million.

Preferential consideration is given to grant requests that include at least a 50 percent matching or in-kind funding component. (Because external funding is a good indicator of the potential long-term sustainability of the activity, projects with matching funds or in-kind support are given priority.) The foundation will on occasion consider grants of up to $2,500. For complete program guidelines and the online application form, please click here.

RESEARCH/NEWS

Rhode Island: Everything You Need to Know about "Empowerment Schools"
In late March, Rhode Island Education Commissioner Ken Wagner unveiled a plan to give principals and teachers sweeping control over most of the major decisions made in their schools every day during his first State of Education address to the General Assembly. From budgeting to class schedules, Wagner shared a plan to create "empowerment schools" that would give leaders in traditional public schools the freedom to redesign their classrooms as they see fit. Get all of the details from WPRI.com's Dan McGowan here.

America After 3pm* Special Report: *The Growing Importance of Afterschool in Rural Communities
For the first time ever, the research series *America After 3pm* is focusing exclusively on rural America and digging deep into the state of afterschool in rural communities. Click here to read the new report, *The Growing Importance of Afterschool in Rural Communities.* In addition to the report, the *America After 3pm* website features a newly-updated data dashboard to discover who is participating in rural programs, how parents perceive the strengths and challenges of these programs, and what rural programs need to succeed.

The Hechinger Report: *The Difference between Being Eligible for College and Ready for College*
As more United States schools may soon be held accountable for teaching life skills like perseverance and compassion, this thought-provoking Hechinger Report article looks at how students might have the grades to apply to college, but asks the question: will they be truly ready for the challenges ahead? Read more here.

STEM Resources and Reading

High Tech Plunge: Governor Raimondo sets Goal to Have Computer Science in Every R.I. Public School
By Linda Borg, *Providence Journal*
Governor Raimondo in March announced an ambitious new initiative to introduce computer science classes to every school in Rhode Island by December 2017. Rhode Island is one of only a handful of states to embrace such an undertaking state-wide. If successful, it would catapult Rhode Island into the front ranks of states that are committed not only to building a computer-savvy workplace but also to attracting industries that rely on such training.

Free Webinar: 5 Steps to Building an At-Risk Student Model
Wednesday, April 13: 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST
Moderator: Jim Yang, Senior Director of Marketing, Illuminate Education
Registration Link
It is important for school districts to create and implement "On-Track Early Warning Systems" in order to identify students that are at risk for academic failure, disengagement, and mental health concerns. Through the systematic use of data, educators can promote more effective prevention and intervention services, while better understanding the root causes of these student issues.

In this webinar, the importance of implementing an "On-Track Early Warning System" will be addressed. It will also take a deep look into what a comprehensive "Early Warning System" looks like, including how data is most effectively used to build one. Also included will be an exploration of the following:

- Research-based methodologies and measures for identifying at-risk students
- A step-by-step process to create and implement an Early Warning System
- Existing models in use today, reviewing the most predictive indicators and cut points.

The webinar's guest will be Chris Balow, Ph.D., Director of Professional Development for Illuminate Education. Dr. Balow has been involved in education for more than 30 years with former roles including district administrator of research and assessment, district RTI coordinator, district lead school psychologist, and university adjunct lecturer. His areas of expertise include assessment design, MTSS/RTI, student academics, and behavioral and social/emotional interventions.

Mindfulness & Education Conference: ***Bringing Mindfulness Practice to Children Grades K-12 with a Focus on Diversity & Social Justice*** **(Continuing Education Credits are Available)**
July 22—24
Rhinebeck, New York
Registration Link
The practices of contemplative education, Social and Emotional learning, and mindfulness are being widely explored in schools throughout the United States. Research shows that mindfulness practice decreases stress, attention deficit issues, depression, anxiety, and hostility in children, while also benefiting their health, well-being, social relations, and academic performance.

Numerous studies in mindfulness and education show that teaching this practice to youth is profoundly beneficial for the development of children in grades K–12. Children can easily learn these techniques and, when learned young, they become lifelong tools supporting awareness, empathy, and resilience.

In this conference, Omega brings together influential leaders in the fields of mindfulness and Social and Emotional learning, including psychologists, educators, administrators, and teachers. Through inspiring keynote lectures, question-and-answer sessions, group exercises, breakout workshops, a panel discussion with school administrators, and instruction in practical application, the conference will explore:

- Challenges and opportunities of implementing new mindfulness programs in schools
- Mindfulness practice with at-risk youth
- Practices and programs that support Social and Emotional learning
- Mindfulness and the cultivation of resilience
- The latest findings of interpersonal neurobiology regarding mindfulness and education

The conference is suitable for educators, school administrators, family therapists, and parents.

The Following are United Way of RI Upcoming Professional Development Workshops

Methods #4: Teen Advisory Board
Friday, April 15: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
United Way of RI: 50 Valley Street, Providence
Presenters: Maryclaire Knight and Shevaun Keogh-Walker, Quality Advisors, 21st CCLC Initiative
Registration Link
Establishing a teen advisory council gives young people tremendous, meaningful leadership experiences and the opportunity to learn about how an organization operates. It has the added benefit of helping to improve your program by making it more youth-driven, which is shown to lead to improved attendance and participation. The cost to attend is $20 for non-ALC members; or 21st CCLC staff rate (with code).
Registration will close at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13.

Failing Forward: *Building a Stronger Organization*
Friday, April 29: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
United Way of RI: 50 Valley Street, Providence
Presenter: Beth Cunha, Executive Director, Center for Dynamic Learning
Registration Link
When is the last time you looked at an error as a learning opportunity? How about as a moment of inspiration? From a young age we learn the importance of trial and error—that we should not try once, but multiple times, in multiple ways until we find success. That same flexibility must be tied to our careers. Bring your errors and an open mind to this interactive workshop, which will take a look at failing forward and the re-definition of success in the nonprofit world. The cost to attend is $15 for non-ALC members.
Registration will close at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27.

Libraries: *The Community's Ideal Collaborator*
Friday, May 6: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
United Way of RI: 50 Valley Street, Providence
Presenter: Shannon Lake, Teen Educator/Librarian, Providence Public Library
Registration Link
Libraries adapt with their community and take on many roles, but aren't always viewed as a partner beyond reading lists and research assistance. During this workshop, participants will walk through scenarios where libraries have played key roles in developing, implementing, and improving community programs. Attendees will walk away with an understanding of how to work with partners at different stages of the partnership, and how libraries can be the ideal collaborator for a variety of initiatives. The cost to attend is $15 for non-ALC members. **Registration will close at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4.**

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