



BRIDGES

INTRODUCTION

Afterschool at the State House!

At our recent Lights On Afterschool (LOA) Conference, ALC kicked-off a series of events focusing on the theme of “Everyone’s an Advocate!” The October LOA Conference, December ALC membership meeting, and the upcoming March ALC membership meeting (scheduled for 3/30) have been 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 an opportunity to put those new skills into practice! The ALC will host an **Afterschool Event at the Rhode Island State House on Thursday, May 25, from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Rhode Island programs are invited to join the ALC in hosting information tables about your afterschool programs outside 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!

Get involved by signing up to host a table on May 25, attending the ALC membership meeting on March 30, and becoming a member of the Afterschool Leadership Circle. For more information on any of these opportunities or the ALC as a whole, please email alc@uwri.org.

Best,
Elana Rosenberg

LOCAL & NATIONAL POLICY UPDATES

Five Cabinet Nominees Who Could Affect Education

Control of school-related issues is spread across a number of government agencies, and President Trump's nominee for U.S. Education Secretary, Betsy DeVos, won't be the only member of his cabinet to have a say in student-facing policy. Here are five potential cabinet members who could influence America's schools and what their past actions might mean for students across the country. Read more from *The Atlantic* by [clicking here](#).

Recommendations for the New Administration

Last year, the Wellesley Centers for Women produced [Advancing the Status of Women & Girls, Families & Communities: Policy Approaches in America](#), a series of policy briefs for the next administration. In one of those briefs, National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST) Director Ellen Gannett and NIOST Research Associate Betsy Starr cover the topic of **Quality Out-of-School Time**. [Read more here](#).

RESEARCH & NEWS

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

New Resource on Social Innovation Education

Alan Harlam and Lizzie Pollock, of Brown University's [Swearer Center](#), recently published a piece in the [Stanford Social Innovation Review](#) entitled, "[Putting Community First in Social Innovation Education](#)." The article discusses the ways in which social innovation educators are responsible for teaching students how to become collaborative community partners. Check out the full [article here](#).



SurveyWorks is Back!

SurveyWorks, Rhode Island Department of Education's annual survey of schools has begun. The survey's timelines are as follows:

- **Student, Teacher, and Support Professional Surveys:** Monday, January 16 to Friday, March 31
- **Family Survey:** Monday, February 6 to Friday, March 31

More information can be found on RIDE's website [here](#).

RIDE Seeking Brief Accounts of Amazing Work Under Way in Rhode Island Schools

Those at RIDE are always interested in hearing about great work under way in your schools, often mentioning programs and initiatives that are innovative and effective when speaking with community groups, business leaders, elected officials, and people in the education field.

To not be left out of the picture, RIDE is asking each Rhode Island school and school community to send them one or two brief accounts of amazing things happening in your school—preferably, initiatives involving teamwork. For each account, send an email of no more than 100 words or a one-minute video clip, using the subject line "Amazing" to info@ride.ri.gov and they'll be sure to spread the word. You can also check out past submissions [here](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON ADVOCACY

U.S. Department of Education Releases Series of Guides on Inclusion of Students with Disabilities

The Lessons From the Field: Serving All Students, Including Students with Disabilities project worked to identify, collect and share with states and their grantees lessons from the field. The products available here can help to design and implement high-quality, out-of-school programs that support all students.

Released in 2016, the project includes 11 implementation guides and six webinars that focus on helping programs build capacity to meet the needs of all students, including students with disabilities. Experts, advocates and 21st CCLC practitioners and program leaders contributed their knowledge and experience to support efforts to create and sustain high-quality, inclusive programs.

In addition to the individual topic guides linked below, available webinars and a full list of implementation guides may be found [here](#).

- [Topic Guide 1](#): Introduction to Inclusion in 21st CCLC Programs
- [Topic Guide 2](#): Legal Foundations of Inclusion: What You Need to Know
- [Topic Guide 3](#): Establishing Inclusive Spaces, Activities, Materials and Routines
- [Topic Guide 4](#): Training and Developing Staff to Support Inclusion
- [Topic Guide 5](#): Identifying and Developing Partnerships
- [Topic Guide 6](#): Engaging Families and Communities to Support Inclusion
- [Topic Guide 7](#): Working with Schools and Districts to Support Inclusion
- [Topic Guide 8](#): Working with IEPs, Section 504 Plans and Transition Plans
- [Topic Guide 9](#): Addressing Individual Needs and Engaging All Learners
- [Topic Guide 10](#): Supporting Social-Emotional Learning
- [State Coordinators Guide](#)
- [Glossary](#)

Local Conference to Support those Working with Undocumented Youth in Rhode Island

Thursday, March 30, 2017: 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Cost: \$20)

Providence College Ruane Center

[Event Information](#)

You are invited to attend this after-school seminar designed specifically for School Counselors and teachers on supporting undocumented students in the wake of President Trump's administration and the new political climate. The purpose of the convening is to offer resources and networking opportunities for those working with undocumented students, undocumented individuals, and their families. You're encouraged to share this event with any ELL teachers or advocates who work with this population. Topics will include:

- Information and resources to support undocumented youth;
- Ideas and action steps to make your school/campus safe and welcoming; and
- Knowledge on history and the current climate regarding undocumented students.

FUNDING & PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Aim High Grant: Thinking about How to Support Middle School OST?

Deadline: Friday, February 17, 2017

The New York Life Foundation has opened a new Aim High Grant opportunity focused on middle school. Aim High will provide \$1.95 million over three years to middle school afterschool, summer or expanded learning programs serving disadvantaged youth. A total of 18 grant awards will be made nationwide—please look to see which opportunity is a good fit for you, and apply!

- **\$100,000 over two years:** 4 awards will be made to organizations with annual budgets of \$500,000 or greater.
- **\$50,000 over two years:** 4 awards will be made to organizations with annual budgets of between \$250,000 and \$500,000.
- **\$15,000 one-year grant:** 10 awards will be made to programs that demonstrate promising family engagement strategies for organizations with annual budgets of more than \$150,000.

The deadline to apply for an Aim High Grant is Friday, February 17, 2017. Full eligibility requirements and an application may be [found here](#).



Extreme Makeover: Playground Edition

Deadline: Friday, March 24, 2017

Do you know of a school playground in need of a makeover? The Healthy Playground Makeover Sweepstakes from Together Counts is offering a \$30,000 grant for a school's healthy transformation—and equipment for a brand-new playground. Enter once a day, every day from now until March 24, 2017. Anyone can enter the sweepstakes on behalf of a school. The more entries a school has, the greater its chance of winning! Enter your school in the

Extreme Makeover: Playground Edition [here](#).

Braitmayer Foundation Seeks Proposals for Innovative K-12 Education Programs

Located in Marion, Massachusetts, the [Braitmayer Foundation](#) was established in 1964 through a gift from Marian S. Braitmayer. Currently, five members of the family direct the activities of the Foundation.

The Foundation is inviting proposals from programs that use innovative practices in K-12 education in the United States. Priority will be given to curricular and school reform initiatives, as well as programs that prepare and provide professional development opportunities for teachers, particularly those which encourage people of high ability and diverse backgrounds to enter and remain in K-12 teaching.

In 2017, the Foundation will consider grant requests for up to \$35,000. To be eligible, applicants must be considered tax exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

For complete program guidelines and proposal submission instructions, please see the complete RFP on the Braitmayer Foundation [website](#).

Provision of Familias Unidas Program to Providence Youth in Schools

Deadline: Monday, February 13, 2017

The Providence Children and Youth Cabinet (CYC) has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for entities to provide the Familias Unidas program to Providence parents of adolescent youth referred to the program by the following participating schools, Christopher DelSesto and Gilbert Stuart, supported by the Providence Public Schools District. Eligibility is limited to individuals and organizations that have experience providing therapeutic, evidence-based family programming. For more information, please visit www.cycprovidence.org.

URI Free Seed Program Returns

Orders are Due by Friday, February 10, 2017

The URI Cooperative Extension is pleased to offer its Free Seed program! This program is made possible each year through the generous donation of seeds by Ocean State Job Lot, and through the efforts of URI Master Gardener Program volunteers.



Vegetable, flower and herb seed packets are now available for schools, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, 4-H clubs, community gardens and any education-based or youth groups. Seeds may be picked up in person (free seed starting workshops are offered on pickup days!), or you may include the price of postage when ordering. For more information, including an order form, [please click here](#).

STEM

Do you have an innovative way to improve your community through a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) service project?

If, so we have a great opportunity for you! [We are now accepting applications for grants around STEM service projects!](#)

This grant, made possible by Verizon, is available for anyone who is:

1. Planning a STEM-related service project that will take place between March 27 - May 12.
2. Resides within the 50 United States.

The deadline for applications is February 27, so don't miss out - [apply today!](#)



verizon  innovative learning

STEM Organizations Encouraged to Apply to Join STEM Learning Ecosystems Initiative

Applications Deadline: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 by 5pm PT

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) leaders, organizations and partners that provide STEM learning opportunities for young people are encouraged to [apply](#) to become a member of the STEM Learning Ecosystems Initiative.

This national initiative seeks to nurture collaboration among a variety of enthusiastic partners with the same goal: helping students develop important skills and engagement in science, technology, engineering and math. A STEM Learning Ecosystem is cultivated through cross-sector partnerships which may include preK-16 schools, after-school and summer programs, science centers, museums, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and more. The [STEM Learning Ecosystems](#) Initiative is supported by the [STEM Funders Network](#) (SFN).

“Becoming a member of the STEM Learning Ecosystems Initiative offers communities vital support in order to benefit more students more quickly,” said SFN co-chairs Gerald Solomon, Executive Director, Samueli Foundation, and Ron Ottinger, Director, STEM Next. “This initiative provides valuable infrastructure for communities working with youth to develop skills and knowledge they need to succeed in a global workforce.”

Communities that are selected will join nearly 40 other STEM Learning Ecosystems in a National Community of Practice and receive technical support and coaching. They will gain access to:

- **National convenings** hosted by the STEM Funders Network (with registration, meals, travel and hotel provided for two members per site)
- **Collaboration** via a robust web-based platform featuring discussions based on STEM practice groups and regional membership
- Sharing of relevant **peer-developed resources**, such as documents and teaching tools
- **Monthly webinars** with national, state and regional speakers (including grant-makers, STEM experts, cross-collaboration experts, and education policy experts)
- Invitation to participate in a specialized annual **STEM Leadership Program**
- Two years of **individualized technical assistance** and coaching

Full application details are available at the [STEM Ecosystems website](#). Interested groups must:

1. Complete the brief [Interest Form](#) and review the [Application Process](#)
2. Participate in two STEM Learning Ecosystems informational webinars on January 31 and February 21, 2017 (*Participation in the webinars is recommended to allow for Q&A, but content will be accessible online and may be reviewed at another time*)
 - a. February 21, 2017: 10am PT; 11am MT; 12pm CT; 1pm ET ([Register](#))
3. Upon invitation, complete the [online application](#)

Applications are due by 5:00pm PT on Wednesday, March 15, 2017. Selections will be announced at US News STEM Solutions Conference in San Diego, CA, May 24-25, 2017.

Learn more about the initiative at stemecosystems.org. Send questions to info@stemecosystems.org. Join the online conversation on Twitter [@STEMecosystems](#) and #STEMecosystems, and on [Facebook](#).

STEM Ecosystems supporting members of the [STEM Funders Network](#) include: [Amgen Foundation](#), [Broadcom Foundation](#), [KDK Harmon Foundation](#), [Motorola Solutions Foundation](#), [Overdeck Foundation](#), [Samueli Foundation](#), [Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation](#), [Simons Foundation](#), and [STEM Next](#).



Behavioral Specialists Training: Resolving Conflicts in the Classroom Using Restorative Practices

Wednesday, February 15, 2017: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Village at Waterman Lake: 715 Putnam Pike (Route 44), Greenville

[Registration Link](#)

This is a professional training for Behavioral Specialists, Classroom Aides, Teacher Assistants, Classroom Teachers and others working in teams or individually (from Pre-K to 12).

Creating positive learning environments by instilling a safe student classroom culture is a key goal for all classroom professionals. Teachers have major responsibilities and objectives to achieve every day and classroom support staff play a critical role for successful outcomes. Positive student behaviors have high correlation to positive learning outcomes.

With many classrooms desiring lively learning communities only to become bogged down with behavioral issues, the classroom support staff, such as the Behavioral Specialist, Teacher Assistant or Classroom Aide takes on ever-increasing responsibility. When many regular classrooms are becoming special education type classrooms, meeting students' emotional needs becomes daunting. Are maladaptive behaviors the by-product of a learning disability? Many student problems start at very early ages and continue to manifest into older adolescence years. With increased numbers of at-risk troubled youth that are depressed, angry, violent and turning to delinquency, drugs and gang membership, a positive classroom-learning environment can be an effective deterrent. Learn the difference between impulsiveness vs. aggressiveness, which tend to appear similar and how to deal with these concerns.

How to prevent classroom disruptions, and when they do occur, safely managing the crisis so an effective learning environment is maintained, is a major skill set presented at this training. Meeting the needs of challenging students with successful outcomes becomes the focus. This training is geared for either the classroom teacher or the classroom support staff. For more information, or to register online, please visit www.neassoc.com.

SAVE THE DATE: Afterschool Leadership Circle Mini-Conference: Youth Work Methods

Tuesday, March 7, 8:30am—12:45pm

United Way of Rhode Island and Tech Collective: Valley Street, Providence

During ALC's March Mini-Conference, participants will have the opportunity to attend two workshops:

- A1: How an Active-Participatory Approach Will Improve Your Program
- A2: Planning and Reflection
- A3: Youth Leadership and Choice

- B1: Building Community Involves Everyone!
- B2: Using Planning and Reflection to Promote Youth-Centered Behavior Management
- B3: Creating Youth-Driven Programs

Registration for the ALC March Mini-Conference will open on February 17. Please email Elana Rosenberg at elana.rosenberg@uwri.org with any questions.

Upcoming Webinar: ESSA and Research Evidence: Opportunities and Challenges for States

Tuesday, March 7: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

[Registration Link](#)

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) presents states with unprecedented flexibility over, and responsibility for, the use of research evidence in their policies and practices. The new law places a heightened importance on the use of research evidence as a critical tool for planning, collaborating, decision-making, and continuous improvement. As states begin to think about the implications of this new law, all relevant stakeholders will need to understand the requirements and opportunities under ESSA, as well as the barriers and challenges they may encounter in carrying out these new requirements. In this webinar, teams from three states will present their progress to date in establishing systemic use of research evidence, their ultimate goals, successful strategies, and the challenges and roadblocks they have faced.

Webinar speakers will include:

- **Dr. Marty West**, Associate Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: **Carrie Conaway**, Associate Commissioner; **Russell Johnston**, Senior Associate Commissioner
- Tennessee Department of Education: **Nate Schwartz**, Chief Research and Strategy Officer; **Rita Fentress**, Director of School Improvement
- Michigan Department of Education: **Venessa Keesler**, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator, Student and School Supports; **Karen Ruple**, Manager, MI Excel Statewide System of Support

Annual Teaching Studio Educators' Institute

Friday, March 10

Rhode Island College

[Registration Link](#)

Don't miss the most exciting social justice and education event of the year: the 4th Annual Teaching Studio Educators' Institute on Friday, March 10 at Rhode Island College. Be inspired by Dr. Jeff Duncan-Andrade, a leading expert in social justice and educational equity, as well as the work of practitioners from a school recognized for unprecedented success with a high poverty, predominately English Language Learner population. Dr. Duncan-Andrade will provide the main keynote address as well as lead two breakout sessions. The Learning Community Consulting Teachers will facilitate interactive workshops featuring elements like video footage and tested tools from their own classrooms that can be applied immediately. Space is limited, so please check out the full [event brochure](#) and [register](#) today.

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