



United Way of Rhode Island

BRIDGES

INTRODUCTION

Registration is Open for *Lights on Afterschool! Breakfast of Champions*

Friday, October 21: 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tech Collective: 166 Valley Street, Providence



Registration is officially open for the 2016 *Lights on Afterschool! Breakfast of Champions*. This year's event, which celebrates the work of the afterschool field while highlighting the important role that out-of-school-time programs and educators play in the lives of youth, families and communities, has been restructured as a mini-conference.

The event is designed for all professionals in the out-of-school-time field, and all workshops are intentionally focused on advocacy, which ALC believes is an essential skill all out-of-school-time professionals need to nurture. This October 21 mini-conference, featuring a keynote address from Marie St. Fleur,

former Massachusetts State Representative and the current President and CEO of the Bessie Tartt Wilson Initiative for Children in Boston, is the first of three professional development opportunities offered by ALC over the next six months that focus on building advocacy skills. These opportunities will lead up to a day of advocacy at the Rhode Island State House in late spring 2017.

To register for Lights on Afterschool, please [click here](#). To download the event brochure, which includes workshop descriptions and schedules, [click here](#).

LOCAL & NATIONAL POLICY UPDATE

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

New Every Student Succeeds Act Spending Regulations Proposed (EdWeek)

After months of criticism from Republican lawmakers, state chiefs, and teachers' unions on its approach to spending rules for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the U.S. Department of Education recently released a new proposal that appears to give districts and states some additional flexibility when it comes to ensuring federal funds for low-income students don't replace state and local dollars. Read more on Education Week by [clicking here](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON ADVOCACY

Hasbro, generationOn Kick-Off National “Rules of Kindness” Campaign

With the start of the school year, kids are making new friends and facing new challenges—making it the perfect time to have important conversations around how young people want to treat each other, what kindness means to them, and how to turn empathy into action.

To help develop empathy and kindness in children, Hasbro and generationOn have kicked-off the “Rules of Kindness” campaign, a national effort that encourages schools, nonprofits, teachers, families, and kids to create their own [Rules of Kindness](#). The campaign is a fun and simple way to start a culture of caring in 3 easy steps:

1. Go to www.generationOn.org/RulesofKindness to find tools and resources that help guide discussions around empathy as kids create their rules of kindness.
2. Put your rules into action with fun and easy service projects and reflect on the impact you made!
3. Share your story on the [Rules of Kindness website](#) for a chance to win grants!

The Rules of Kindness campaign runs through October 17, but don’t wait to participate. Make your rules of kindness today and be sure to share on the campaign website for a chance to win grants and to be featured on the campaign’s Facebook, Twitter or Instagram channels. Together, we can make Rhode Island the KINDEST state where kindness rules!

Feds to Schools: Protect Students’ Civil Rights by Limiting Role of School Police

In an effort to protect students’ civil rights and limit unnecessarily harsh school discipline, the Obama administration in early September released new resources related to the hiring and training of school resource officers.

The resources come amid national discussions about appropriate school discipline and the role of law enforcement officers, both in communities and in schools, following several high-profile student arrests. They are the latest efforts by the U.S. Department of Education and Justice to reshape school discipline by pushing back against zero-tolerance policies. [Read the full article here.](#)

RESOURCES

From National AfterSchool Association...Involving Children and Families in Program Planning

Families and children offer valuable insights and ideas that could improve your program and the services delivered. Yet, program staff often reaches out and receives limited involvement, which can easily become frustrating. But, don’t give up; keep trying and be creative. Consider this helpful advice from NAA on how and when to best approach families—it’s worth the effort! Read more [here](#).

Letters to the Next President 2.0

Young people should have a say on the issues that matter to them, their communities, and our country. That’s why the National Writing Project and KQED have launched Letters to the Next President 2.0, a project that provides resources and opportunities for young people to research, write, make, share, and connect around issues they care about. Sign up today to give your students, ages 13-18, a voice in the upcoming election and access resources and updates about the L2P 2.0 project by [clicking here](#).

SAVE THE DATE: CS4RI Summit 2016

Wednesday, December 14: 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

University of Rhode Island, Ryan Center

[Information Link](#)

The CS4RI Summit will bring together middle and high school computer science (CS) students from across Rhode Island to participate in activities, see demonstrations, and hear presentations aimed at providing students with information about the varied and exciting career paths in computer science. Exhibitors will include business and industry, as well as colleges and universities. Students from URI and middle and high school will be showcasing their CS work. Breakout sessions with 4-minute lightning presentations will focus on virtual and augmented reality, robotics and physical computing, big data visualization, and security and networking. To register, exhibit, attend or volunteer, please visit cs4ri.org/summit.

FUNDING & PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Federal Agencies Seek Performance Partnership Pilot for Disconnected Youth Communities

Application Deadline: Monday, October 31, 2016

The Department of Justice and six other federal agencies are inviting eligible local, state and tribal communities to apply for funding under round 3 of the Performance Partnership Pilots initiative to improve education, employment, and other key outcomes for disconnected youth. The participating agencies have made the application process for federal funds more flexible and waived certain program requirements to enable successful applicants to test strategies to increase the rate at which disconnected youth—youth between the ages of 14 and 24 who are low-income and are homeless, in foster care, involved in the juvenile system, unemployed, or not enrolled in or at-risk of dropping out of school—achieve success. Please see the *Federal Register* notice for [additional details](#).

STEM Resources and Reading

What is the Common Core? The Controversial Standards Explained (EdWeek)

Common Core State Standards arose from a simple idea: that creating one set of challenging academic expectations for all students would improve achievement and college readiness. But the idea proved to be the only thing that was simple about the common core. Brewing since 2007 and launched officially in 2009, the drive for common learning goals in English/language arts and mathematics produced an extraordinary response: All but four states embraced the standards in a huge wave of adoptions in 2010 and 2011. But there was also an extraordinary backlash.

In this engaging piece posted on Education Week, which also includes a helpful video, Common Core Standards are examined, along with some of the misconceptions that have accompanied its rollout in recent years. [Read more here](#).





Introduction to Computer Programming and Web Design for Teachers

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, October 5

Fall 2016: In-Person and Online

Rhode Island College, Henry Barnard School, Room 214

[Information Link](#)

This new boot camp course, offered under Gov. Raimondo's Computer Science for Rhode Island Initiative, will provide educators with skills in computer programming and web design.

Rhode Island College (RIC) is excited to announce a new computer science boot camp as part of the Computer Science for Rhode Island (CS4RI) offerings for teachers. Launching in October, this hybrid computer science boot camp will give middle and high school teachers an opportunity to develop new skills in computer science and web design, deepen existing content knowledge, and empower them to replicate workshops and best practices for teaching coding to students.

The boot camp will be offered as a partnership between RIC and General Assembly (GA), a global educational company that delivers relevant and in-demand data, design, business and computer science skills to worldwide leaders in business and technology. The October boot camp is the first time that General Assembly has partnered with an institution of higher education to transform teacher professional learning. The design of the content for the boot camp has been a joint effort between GA and RIC faculty advisor, Lisa Bain, Associate Professor of Computer Information Systems (CIS) at RIC. **Those completing the course will receive 3.0 Continuing Education Units and a RIC Certificate of Continuing Study.**

During the boot camp, teachers will be introduced to block and text-based computer programming, front-end web design with HTML and CSS, pair programming, and model lesson plans. The workshop will also provide teachers with a variety of coding and computer science-related resources to supplement the materials and encourage further professional development. No prior Computer Science experience is required and the materials are designed for teachers of both middle and high school students.

The 30-hour boot camp will include in-person classes on the RIC campus Friday to Sunday, October 14 to 16, and then continue online through Friday, October 28. All course materials will be provided; however, teachers will need to bring their own laptops. The course fee is \$500 and billing and payment will be through the Bursar's Office. Tuition grants for qualified teachers are available through the RI Innovation Office at [CS4RI PD Grants](#). Additionally, full course registration instructions may be found [here](#).

4th Annual School Garden Conference

Saturday, October 15: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

URI Kingston Campus

[Registration Link](#)

This conference connects the local school garden community with expertise from URI faculty, URI Extension staff and volunteers, registered landscape architects, and community members. With options for beginning or experienced school gardeners, this dynamic conference offers something for everyone and will help you be successful during the school year.

Attendees will gain practical knowledge about growing food crops and composting with food safety in mind during the school year, and will have a choice to venture outside for in-garden learning or stay back and learn how to design your school garden from scratch. This full-day professional development opportunity is suitable for everyone involved with school gardens: formal and informal educators, school administrators, parents and community leaders. For a complete agenda of the day's activities, please [click here](#).

Rhode Island Science Teachers Association 2-Day Professional Learning Opportunity: Evaluating and Aligning Instructional Resources to the Next Generation Science Standards Using the EQuIP Rubric

Monday, October 17: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 18: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Building B: 640 George Washington Highway, Lincoln (Please Note: Location has moved to Northern RI Collaborative to solve parking issues)

[Registration Link](#)

You are invited to a 2-day professional learning workshop that offers direct training from two national trainers who worked to develop the current NGSS EQuIP Rubric, which is widely regarded as the best way to evaluate instructional resources for their alignment to the NGSS. EQuIP stands for “Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products.” Through this opportunity, attendees will:

- Engage in a deep study of the NGSS;
- Receive training in the use of the EQuIP Rubric to evaluate materials for NGSS alignment;
- Determine how to improve instructional materials so that they are aligned to the NGSS; and
- Collaborate with other educators to revise materials or create new materials for use with their own students in 3-dimensional learning.

Teachers from all K-12 Rhode Island schools are encouraged to attend; the workshop’s goal is to enroll 2-3 educators from each district to best bring the rubric to all local levels. Space for the workshop is limited, so enroll today with a team of educators from your district. If your district would like to register and submit attendees’ names at a later date, please email Carolyn Higgins at carolyn.higgins@warwickschools.org. Registration is available online by [clicking here](#), while a flyer for the training can be accessed [here](#).

Behavioral Specialist Training: Resolving Conflicts in the Classroom

Wednesday, October 19: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

This is a professional training opportunity for Behavioral Specialists, Classroom Aides, Teacher Assistants, Classroom Teachers and others working in teams of individually with students 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 the classroom support staff play a critical part 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 the older adolescence years. With increased numbers of at-risk troubled youth that are depressed, angry, violent and experimenting with 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 those 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 presented at this training. Meeting the needs of challenging students with successful outcomes becomes the focus. This comprehensive training is geared for either the classroom teacher or the classroom support staff. For more information, including how to register, please visit the [New England Training Associates website](#).

Online Opportunity: International Director Certificate

Collaborative Online Program runs through May 2017

[Registration Link](#)

Cypherworx is excited to announce the launch of its new International Director Certificate for experienced After School, SAC, OST and Youth Development professionals. The online, collaborative program began in September and will run through May 2017.

This certificate is for professionals who are seeking to demonstrate their commitment to the field through a proven curriculum and online virtual, highly self-paced, process culminating in a Capstone Project benefitting their program. Scholarships and payment options are available.

Eligibility includes any adult 18-years of age or older who is currently working in or seeking employment in the after school/Out-of-School-Time or Youth Development fields, who meets the eligibility criteria outlined in the International OST/YD Director Credential program, and seeking to advance and demonstrate their commitment to the field and pursue ongoing training and education to benefit themselves, their program, and the children and youth being served. To learn more, or register, please [click here](#). And if you have questions, please contact the program at directorcredentials@cypherworx.com.

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