



BRIDGES

INTRODUCTION

United Way of Rhode Island Celebrates National Summer Learning Day

United Way of Rhode Island held a Summer Learning Appreciation Event in celebration of National Summer Learning Day on Thursday, July 13 at Aurora, an exciting mixed-use creative venue in the heart of downtown Providence. Summer learning professionals and Rhode Island policymakers joined together to celebrate the importance of summer learning programs across the state that promote academic, social-emotional, wellness, and citizenship skills for thousands of Rhode Island youth. The event included remarks from summer learning supporters Bobby Gondola, Director, Global Philanthropy & Social Impact, Hasbro Inc., and Mary Ann Snider, Deputy Commissioner for Teaching and Learning, RI Department of Education, as well as ALC's very own Joseph Morra.

LOCAL & NATIONAL POLICY UPDATES

Congress: Support Critical Investments in our Children and Families *(from Every Hour Counts)*

Last month, President Trump submitted his FY '18 budget to Congress, and once again, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program is among those targeted for elimination, along with several other programs, such as Title I & II and AmeriCorps, that provide critical support to after-school and summer programs. We know that the cuts would be devastating to students and families throughout the country who rely on these programs for high-quality before- and after-school programs and other community supports. Congress is now in the process of putting together its own FY'18 funding proposals. Please read [our full statement](#) urging Congress to reject the Trump administration's proposed cuts to education and support critical investments in our kids and families.

AROUND THE STATE

New Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Webpage on Obesity and Physical Activity

In celebration of the release of KIDS COUNT's latest *Policy Brief* on [Comprehensive School Physical Activity Programs in Rhode Island](#), Rhode Island KIDS COUNT has created a [new webpage on childhood obesity and regular physical activity](#).

This [new section of the KIDS COUNT website](#) hosts all of its obesity- and physical activity-related publications and presentations, and also provides links to local and national partners.



RESEARCH & NEWS

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

Preparing for Summer

Members of HOST, the Healthy Out-of-School Time Coalition, offer some suggestions for how to bring healthy eating and physical activity to our schools and communities this summer. For some great ideas, [click here](#).



Summer Slide: Not Your Average Playground

Research on the achievement gap suggests that the average student loses the equivalent of one month of instruction over the summer, and that the amount of loss differs for subsets of students. In a previously recorded presentation, NIOST Senior Research Scientist Georgia Hall, Ph.D. and Gretchen Larson discussed how innovative school communities have re-purposed summer learning programs to focus on more enriching and engaging, academically-focused learning experiences. [Learn more here](#).

Navigating SEL from the Inside Out

The Wallace Foundation released a consumer-oriented guide that allows educators to “look inside” top research-based programs on social and emotional learning (SEL) aimed at elementary schools and out-of-school-time (OST) providers.

Written by SEL expert Stephanie Jones, [Navigating SEL from the Inside Out: Looking Inside & Across 25 Leading SEL Programs: A Practical Resource for Schools and OST Providers](#), the guide provides practitioners with information that enables them to compare what is taught, and how, across programs. Katie Brohawn, Senior Director of Research for ExpandedED Schools, outlined some of the report's chief lessons for the OST field and program providers [here](#).

The Future of Children

The spring issue of the Princeton-Brookings journal [The Future of Children](#) is out and is all about SEL. Specifically, it explores some of the most compelling evidence and key contradictions facing researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. Sponsored by The Wallace Foundation, the issue covers SEL in a wide range of in-school and after-school settings, and has a particular focus on outcomes, developmentally aligned skills development, and measurement.

Talk TuesdayPD: 5 Ways to Build Strong Relationships with Families

Transitioning into summer programs—or planning for the next school year—is a great opportunity to re-engage current families or integrate new ones. Use one of Talk TuesdayPD’s turnkey professional development resources, [Talk TuesdayPD: 5 Ways to Build Strong Relationships with Families](#). The package includes a ready-to-use topical article, discussion questions, application activities, and a training certificate—all to support professional development.

SPOTLIGHT ON ADVOCACY

National Summer Learning Day: Thursday, July 13, 2017

National Summer Learning Day is a national advocacy day aimed at elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school in the fall ready to succeed in the year ahead. Your participation in this day sends a powerful message across the nation that summers matter and offers an opportunity to showcase how summers can make a life-changing difference in the lives of young people. Post or find an event by [clicking here](#).

Resources for Confronting the Invisible

Every Hour Counts believes that it’s more important than ever for those of us charged with serving the country’s young people to think critically about some of the invisible structures that impact all of us.

What’s Your American Dream Score? (Ford Foundation)

Is it really possible to get ahead simply by working hard and playing by the rules? [The Ford Foundation](#) and their partners at [Moving Up](#) have created the [Your American Dream Score](#) to help Every Hour Counts examine the many experiences, systems, and institutions that have helped—or hindered—the path to where we are today, and to jump-start honest discussions about the role of inequality and opportunity in our lives. Spend five minutes taking [the quiz](#), and you’ll find out what factors were working in your favor and what you had to overcome to get where you are today.

Another Life Lost, Another Shattering Verdict (Youthprise)

As educators and system reformers committed to the health, happiness, safety, and success of ALL young people, we cannot look away from the “not guilty” verdict in the Philando Castile case, or racial and ethnic disparities in our justice system.

[Youthprise](#) President Wokie Weah wrote this [powerful response](#), and compiled an action list for young people, for the philanthropic community, the media, and for elected officials. Wokie writes, “As a hero of mine, Nelson Mandela, once said, ‘As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest.’ Now is not the time to rest. Now is the time for action.” Please read and share.

FUNDING & PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

CVS Health Community Heroes Grant Program

Deadline: Wednesday, July 26, 2017

CVS Health, WPRI and the Pawtucket Red Sox are joining forces for the third year of Community Heroes, a program that will provide \$55,000 in grants to Rhode Island nonprofits. All three organizations are committed to helping youth lead tobacco-free lives. That is why this year’s grant program will be a Public

Service Announcement campaign where youth can create a video on what it means for them to be the first tobacco free generation.

After-school programs, summer learning programs, youth enrichment programs and other youth-focused or tobacco-prevention nonprofit organizations are invited to have their youth submit videos **through Wednesday July 26**. All submissions will be reviewed, and the ten nonprofits whose videos best align with the theme will be chosen to receive \$5,000 each. The ten nonprofits will be announced on August 7, and community members will then have the chance to pick one of these ten organizations to receive an additional \$5,000 bonus grant!

More details, including rules and submission guidelines, are available [here](#), and check out [this video](#) from The Rhode Show. Please feel free to share this information with any organization you think would be interested in participating. Together, we can help make Rhode Island youth the first tobacco-free generation.

Webinar: Professionalizing the Workforce in Out-of-School Time and School-Age Child Care

The National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE) hosted a webinar at NAA's convention in March, where they addressed key workforce issues. We now have an opportunity to share with you a recording of the event by following [this link](#).

The Providence After School Alliance (PASA) announces the opening of the 2017-2018 AfterZone Request for Proposals (RFP) and the High School Hub's Request for Proposals (RFP)*:

The RFPs for both initiatives will remain open until 12:00 am EST on Monday, July 24th.

Information for the Hub RFP application is listed below AfterZone information. Scroll down for details!

During this period we will be accepting proposals for all three AfterZone sessions within the 2017-18 academic year. Session Dates:

Fall 2017: October 2nd - December 7th

Winter 2018: January 22nd- March 29th

Spring 2018: April 23rd- May 31st

The AfterZone provides free after-school and expanded learning programming for over 1,500 middle school youth at five of the seven middle schools throughout the City of Providence.

If you have submitted a past proposal please access your account with the link below:

<https://www.youthservices.net/pasa/index.asp>

If you are submitting a proposal for the first time use this link to create your new account:

www.youthservices.net/pasa/registration.asp

We strongly encourage first time applicants for the AfterZone to attend the free Technical Assistance session that will be provided.

T.A.Session: Friday, July 14th 10-11 am at PASA. 81 Carpenter St.

(On street parking can be found in surrounding areas).

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact:

AfterZone Director Rob Randall - rrandall@mypasa.org / [401 490-9599 x105](tel:4014909599)

STEM

STEM + Global Learning = Design Squad

Every Hour Counts is proud to partner with [WGBH Design Squad Global](#) (DSG). Through DSG, kids ages 10-13 get a special opportunity—the chance to work alongside a partner club from another country, where they complete hands-on engineering projects designed to tackle real-world problems. Partner clubs share their experiences by exchanging design ideas, photos, and videos. To give your students a chance to participate in this unique opportunity, [register](#) your program by July 15th to participate for FREE in the next round of DSG clubs launching in August.

Spatial Thinking: Essential for STEM Career Success

Spatial thinking, or reasoning, is the capacity to mentally or physically understand the location and movements of ourselves in space—but did you know these skills are critical in professional life, as well? Technology has impaired spatial reasoning in children, and it's rarely taught in formal schooling. Luckily, spatial skills can be improved through practice. Find out how you can give children an edge in future STEM careers by [clicking here](#).



LEGO Robotics Course for Adults Aims to Expand Access to STEAM Education

Gordon School: 45 Maxfield Avenue, East Providence

[Rhode Island Students of the Future](#) is offering a professional development course for teachers, informal educators and parents interested in using the LEGO EV3 robotics system to engage children in science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM). This course is for adults, 18+, and provides an opportunity to learn how to build and program LEGO robots, and how to develop hands-on educational challenges to use in classrooms, after-school programs, or with robotics teams.

- The beginner level course is **July 31—August 2, 2017** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Gordon School in East Providence. The fee to register for the beginner course is \$300.
- An intermediate course for those with some experience with the LEGO EV3 system will be held **August 2 and 3**, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., also at Gordon School. The fee for the intermediate course is \$200.
- Participants may register for both courses for \$400

Thanks to the support of the Verizon Foundation, National Grid, NE FIRST, Zebra Technologies, and the Textron Charitable Trust, tuition assistance is available for those demonstrating financial need. **Equipment is provided and advanced registration is required.** For more information, visit the [Rhode Island Students of the Future website](#), or email Mary Johnson at mary.johnson@risf.net.

Rhode Island Environmental Education Association: Available Summer Trainings

[Project Learning Tree](#) is an award-winning environmental education program designed for teachers and other educators, youth leaders, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12 in both formal and informal settings. Following the success of last year's workshops, RIEE is offering new trainings for 2017. Please click on the links below to learn about these trainings and to register.

- [Early Childhood Teacher Training](#)

Tuesday, August 15, 2017: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- For educators who work with children ages 3-5. This training is approved by the Center for Early Learning Professionals.

- [K-8 Teacher Training](#)

Wednesday, August 16, 2017: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- This training is appropriate for teachers, informal educators, youth leaders, parents, and community leaders.

Save the Date: National Core Arts Standards Professional Learning Opportunity

National Core Arts Standards (NCAS) & You!

Saturday, September 16, 2017: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

North Kingstown High School: 150 Fairway Drive, North Kingstown

The Rhode Island Department of Education has officially endorsed the NCAS as Rhode Island's new arts standards. Spend the morning of Saturday, September 16 with the RI State Council on the Arts and learn more about the NCAS with national arts education leaders and colleagues from around the state. During this unique learning opportunity, attendees will:

- Explore NCAS online resources;
- Work on practical classroom applications; and
- Engage in dialogue.

Special guests include:

- Dennis Inhulsen, Chief Learning Officer, National Art Education Association
- David Neves, East Division Past President, National Association for Music Education
- Susan McGreevy Nichols, CEO, National Dance Education Organization

Save the Date & Register Now: Beacon Academy's 12th Annual Symposium on Race and Class in Education

****Limited Seats Remain***

Friday, October 20, 2017

Beacon Academy: 477 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA

[Registration Link](#)

You're invited to join Beacon Academy for this special event convening educational leaders, champions of equity, and diversity and inclusion specialists from across New England. The Symposium is a unique event, focused on the challenges and opportunities within the independent school community, with workshops tailed for all who are passionate about equity and justice in education. Afternoon workshops, following the Symposium, are available for those in the following fields:

- College placement advisors and counselors
- High school admissions and financial aid decision-makers
- Diversity and inclusion specialists

- Independent school administrators and leadership
- Mentors for low-income students, first-generation students, and students of color
- Counselors and mental health professionals in education
- Parents for equity and justice in education

For any questions about the event, or to apply for a free waiver, please contact Mercy Bell, Director of Partnerships, at mbell@beaconacademy.org.

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