



BRIDGES

INTRODUCTION

The Afterschool Leadership Circle (formerly RIASPA) at United Way of Rhode Island is a statewide network of Rhode Islanders who support quality afterschool and summer learning opportunities for young people. The ALC is one of 50 Statewide Afterschool Networks across the country, supported by the [Charles Stewart Mott Foundation](#). ALC members come together to:

- Work to make sure all Rhode Island children have access to quality afterschool and summer learning programs;
- Encourage schools and communities to work together so that all kids have their social, emotional, health, and academic needs met;
- Raise awareness about the importance of out-of-school time learning; and
- Work with local and state officials to implement policies that expand access to quality afterschool and summer programs in Rhode Island.

In addition to afterschool professionals at all stages of their careers, ALC members and partners include state policymakers and local leaders in education, youth development, juvenile justice, childcare, health, and workforce development. ALC is open to anyone who cares about ensuring Rhode Island youth have access to quality afterschool and summer programs.

ALC Membership is structured to be accessible to everyone! Memberships exist at multiple levels based on organization size, including an individual membership for those who would prefer to join on their own. ALC members benefit from discounted and free professional development opportunities, have input on our policy platform, gain access to volunteers from United Way of Rhode Island's corporate partners with coordination and management support from United Way staff, and more. For more information on becoming an ALC member, including a full listing of membership benefits broken down by membership level, [please click here](#). We'd love to have you!

LOCAL & NATIONAL POLICY UPDATE

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

Get Involved: RIDE Community Engagement Forums in November

As Rhode Island prepares to transition to the new federal education law—the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)—the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) will hold community forums throughout November to collect public feedback and input. These forums are the first of several important public engagement opportunities. RIDE encourages and welcomes you as public stakeholders to be critically involved in the decision-making process so that your experiences may inform the ESSA state implementation plan. Forums will be held at various locations on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, November 9:** Lincoln Middle School: 152 Jenckes Hill Road, Lincoln
- **Monday, November 14:** Coventry High School: 40 Reservoir Road, Coventry
- **Thursday, November 17:** Portsmouth High School: 120 Education Lane, Portsmouth
- **Monday, November 21:** South Kingstown High School: 215 Columbia Street, Wakefield

All forums will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with doors opening at 5:15 p.m.

Join RIDE for this informative and interactive event! All are welcome, so come lend your voice to advance Rhode Island schools! To register to attend a forum, please [click here](#). For additional information or questions, please contact Felicia Brown at: Felicia.Brown@ride.ri.gov.

How Will ESSA Change STEM Education?

In October, the National Science Teacher's Coalition and STEM Education Coalition hosted a webinar on STEM in ESSA: *How ESSA Will Change K-12 STEM Education: What State Leaders and STEM Professionals Need to Know*. We are pleased to offer you a recording of this thought-provoking session [here](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON ADVOCACY

Students Give Candid Responses to their U.S. Education

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.

Journalist and former teacher Magdalena Slapik sees student voices as underused in the classroom. That's why she's creating a project to amplify them—a book—featuring nearly 100 student interviews from every state and grade across the nation.

Slapik gives a sneak peek at students' candid responses to their U.S. education [here](#), while the Nellie Mae Education Foundation has a great video on why the student voice is important in education [here](#).



STUDENT-DRIVEN

“There are 50 million [student] voices we’re not listening to that can improve our education system.”

Magdalena Slapik
Journalist and former teacher

“75 by 2025” Statewide Forum to Improve Grade-Level Reading in Rhode Island

Friday, November 18: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Rhode Island College Alger Hall: 600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence

[Registration Link](#)

United Way’s [Women’s Leadership Council](#), in partnership with the Rhode Island College Advancement Division, invites you to attend its “75 by 2025” statewide forum on grade-level reading on Friday, November 18. With just one-third of Rhode Island students proficient in grade-level reading by third grade, this is your opportunity to lend your voice and ideas to improve education in Rhode Island.

The forum will feature a panel of speakers who will present Rhode Island’s plan to ensure that 75 percent of all third graders are reading at grade-level by 2025, as well as group breakout sessions for attendees to brainstorm strategies to improve education in our state. Panelists include:

- Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT (*Moderator*)
- Victor Cappellan, Superintendent of the Central Falls School District
- Melissa Husband, Executive Director of the Community Action Partnership of Providence
- Caitlin Molina, Executive Director of Providence Talks

The event is free and open to all who wish to attend; light refreshments will be served. Bring a friend and join the WLC for great conversation and learn how you can make a difference. Those interested in attending the forum are asked to register [online](#) by November 17.

FUNDING & PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

An Opportunity for Students, Ages 11—18, to Launch Experiments into Space!

idoodledu, inc., in partnership with NASA Goddard Space Flight Center’s Wallops Flight Facility, the Colorado Space Grant Consortium and Langley Research Center, is offering “Cubes in Space,” a program providing students 11 to 18 years of age an opportunity to design and compete to launch an experiment into space at **no cost!**

This Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) based global education program enables students to learn about space exploration utilizing innovative problem-solving, inquiry-based learning methods. By participating in this program, students and educators are provided with engaging content and activities in preparation for the design and development of an experiment to be integrated into a small cube.

This year, experiments will be launched into space via sounding rocket from NASA Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, Virginia in late June 2017 or on a high altitude balloon launched from the NASA Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility in Fort Sumner, New Mexico in August 2017.

The deadline to register in this unique program is January 6, 2017. For more information, please visit www.cubesinspace.com. Any questions regarding the program may be directed to info@cubesinspace.com.

Become a Program Provider!

The Providence After School Alliance (PASA) is excited to announce the opening of the Winter and Spring 2017 Request for Proposals. The RFP will remain open until 11:59 p.m. EST on November 20, 2016. Winter session will begin on Monday, January 23 and end on Thursday, March 30. The spring session begins on Monday, April 24 and ends Thursday, June 1.

The AfterZone provides free after-school and expanded learning programming for more than 1,800 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 using this [link](#). If you are submitting a proposal for the first time, please create your new account using this [link](#).

PASA strongly encourages first-time applicants for the AfterZone to attend the free Technical Assistant session that will be provided. A session will be held on:

- Thursday, November 10: 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at PASA: 81 Carpenter Street (on street parking available)

If you have any questions, please contact AfterZone Director Rob Randall at rRANDALL@myPASA.org or (401) 490-9599 ext. 105.

Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award

Kids must gain vital literacy skills to succeed in school, career and beyond. The Afterschool Alliance is thrilled to continue partnering with the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to welcome nominations for the \$10,000 [Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award](#) for the third year.

This year's award focuses on English language learners and the ways afterschool programs ensure these students have the reading and writing abilities they need to thrive. **Nominations are due by Dec. 16, 2016.**

The Afterschool Alliance is looking for your help to find strong afterschool programs that provide integral literacy support to English language learner students. If you have a program in mind, [nominate them today](#).

For more information about the Dollar General Afterschool Literacy Award, visit this [website](#) or take part in an [upcoming webinar on November 10](#), where past winners will share lessons and tips for nominating a program. If you have questions, contact Nikki Yamashiro at nyamashiro@afterschoolalliance.org.

Eastern Region Campus Connect: Now Accepting Proposals

[Conference Proposals](#) are now being accepted for the 6th Biennial Eastern Region Campus Compact Conference (ERCC) [Moving Us Forward: Equity through Community Engagement](#) on March 15-16, 2017 at New York University.

Each year, the ERCC identifies a theme for deeper examination. The ERCC 2017 at NYU conference is asking participants to renew their commitment to equity as a core emphasis of practice while exploring the extent to which community engagement activities contribute to equity in our local and global communities. The conference will aim to explore the challenges and opportunities that arise when we commit to equity in our institutional principles, practices and outcome objectives; and to learn from our efforts to do so thus far. Some of the framing questions include:

- How are community engaged scholars, practitioners, and students building their own skills around diversity, social justice, and equity? Where are the needs for improvement?

- In what ways can a focus on equity inform the design of community engagement programs?
- How are campuses assessing the inclusivity of community engagement practices and/or the extent to which equity-focused outcomes are being achieved?

The deadline to submit proposals is November 18, 2016, and proposals may be submitted online through this [link](#).

STEM Resources and Reading

CS4RI Summit

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

University of Rhode Island: Ryan Center

The first 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 include business and industry as well as colleges and universities.
- Students from URI and middle and high school students will be showcasing their CS work.
- Breakout sessions with 4 -minute lightening presentations will focus on virtual & augmented reality, robotics & physical computing, big data visualization, security & networking.

To register to attend, exhibit or volunteer, please visit cs4ri.org/summit.



Methods: Building Community, Structure, and Clear Limits

Friday, November 18: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

United Way of Rhode Island: 50 Valley Street, Providence

<https://uwriweb.org/BuildingCommunity2016>

Building an emotionally safe community of peers and adults is essential for youth to learn and develop as individuals. Part of that safe community is building positive structures that allow positive youth energy to flow freely, without falling into program chaos. This interactive workshop helps participants work on building a safe and supportive community in their programs.

Methods: Active and Cooperative Learning

Friday, December 2: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

United Way of Rhode Island: 50 Valley Street, Providence

<https://uwriweb.org/ActiveLearning>

Do you know the difference among cooperative learning, active learning and hands-on learning? Giving youth materials is just the beginning! This interactive workshop introduces the ingredients of active learning, explains the role that active learning plays in the experiential learning cycle, and helps participants create more powerful learning opportunities for youth. Cooperative learning is a complementary strategy to active learning, and an excellent way to nurture youth leadership, build community, and keep things fun. Presenters will equip participants with grouping strategies and ways to think about building cooperative learning into any program offering.

ALC Membership Meeting with a Focus on Advocacy

Wednesday, December 7: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

United Way of Rhode Island: 50 Valley Street, Providence

<https://uwriweb.org/ALCAdvocacyMeeting>

This session will be the first of two follow-up sessions to the October Lights On Afterschool Mini-Conference. During the session, participants will learn more skills to add to their advocacy “backpack,” in preparation for an event at the Rhode Island State House on May 25, 2017, during the legislative session. ALC members, including all levels of member organization staff and volunteers, are welcome at no cost and are encouraged to bring a guest attendee. Please provide your guest’s information when prompted.

Summer Learning Mini-Conference

Friday, January 13, 2017: 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Rhode Island College: 600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence

Registration available soon!

This mini-conference will focus on the importance of planning for your summer learning program—starting in the winter! Workshop topics will include understanding research on summer learning loss; building strong and diverse adult teams; creating a hands-on, experiential curriculum; and field trips as key learning experiences.

Youth Work Methods Mini-Conference

Tuesday, March 7, 2017: 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Rhode Island College: 600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence

Registration available soon!

This mini-conference will focus on the key aspects of high-quality afterschool programming. Topics will include conflict resolution, creating youth advisory boards, planning and reflection, and other topics.

ALC Membership Meeting with a Focus on Advocacy

Thursday, March 30, 2017: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

United Way of Rhode Island: 50 Valley Street, Providence

Registration available soon!

This session will be the second of two follow-up sessions to the October Lights On Afterschool Mini-Conference. During the session, participants will learn more skills to add to their advocacy “backpack,” in preparation for a trip to the Rhode Island State House during the legislative session. ALC members, including all levels of member organization staff and volunteers, are welcome at no cost and are encouraged to bring a guest attendee. Please provide your guest’s information when prompted.

More Professional Development Opportunities...

DownCity Design is Seeking Innovative Educators: Join their FREE Professional Development Program!

Application Deadline: Friday, November 18

[Application Link](#)

Preparing students for success in the 21st century means offering opportunities to develop essential skills like **Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking** and **Creative Problem-Solving**. Project-based learning using Design Thinking helps students develop these skills and provides them with a framework for tackling any problem they encounter, whether in school or in their lives beyond.

DownCity Design's FREE Innovative Educator professional development series will bring together teachers from across Rhode Island interested in using Design Thinking to guide their students through collaborative investigations in science, social studies, language arts, and more.

The Innovative Educator group will gather five times over the course of the school year to develop and test hands-on, standards-aligned curricula that create meaningful and fun learning experiences. To learn more and to apply, please visit <http://www.downcitydesign.org/innovative-educator>.

NAA Virtual Convention

November 6—20

[Registration Link](#)

NAA's Virtual Convention runs November 6—20. It's FREE for Executive members and just \$9 for Ambassadors. Here's a sneak peek at three of the workshops you'll experience when you participate:

Cultural Competency: More than Just Flags and Festivals



Presenter: Kari Knutson, Knutson Consulting

When we talk about being culturally competent, many of us think about "celebrating diversity." What if there was more to it than that? Developing cultural competency includes examining our own biases and developing the willingness to learn and be educated from a different point of view. Being culturally competent can help with your ability to interact successfully with all kinds of people. In this presentation you will cultivate your ability to understand, communicate with and interact with people across cultures.

Helping Girls Make Themselves Heard



Presenter: Tiana Brown, Norwalk Housing Authority

Helping teenage girls create a healthy self-image can be a daunting task in a culture that is ravished with unrealistic expectations and standards of beauty. Girl Chat! provides a safe environment for ailing girls to share their experiences and find resources and support along their journey to self-discovery to womanhood. The Girl Chat! workshop equips practitioners with the tools and support they need to face the various issues young women are confronted with today.

It's in the Bag: Creating a Bag of Tricks for Success with Real World Challenges



Presenter: Anna Luther, Kids Included Together

Every provider needs a portable Bag of Tricks they can dig into during unexpected wait times, when activities don't go as planned or when a youth needs extra support. This presentation will prepare every participant to create an effective treasure chest to be used in any program and with any age. Participants will discover simple and inexpensive items found in any dollar store that can be used to support youth when they are struggling.

If you are interested in registering for the NAA Virtual Convention, [please click here](#).

Aggression Replacement Training Techniques: Presented by New England Training Associates

Wednesday, November 9

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

Function Room: 2nd Building (Located at rear side of complex)

[Registration Link](#)

This is a Restorative Practice conference, using Aggression Replacement Training (ART), and other psychoeducational techniques. ART is much more than an anger management group. Dealing with conflicts in the school, community or out of home placement is distressing to the social environment.

Training for those working with high-risk or gang involved youth.

Low self-esteem / Outcasts	Poor social skills
Behavior problems	Behind academically
Aggression problems	Depression / Anxiety
Suicidal / Homicidal	Disruptions / Outbursts
Inappropriate language	Violence / Spitting
Profanity / Name calling / Bullying	Defiance / Refusing to follow directions
Withdrawal / Refuse to participate	Truancy / AWOL

Most kids with emotional difficulty need a multidisciplinary/multisystemic approach and not just a DSM diagnosis and medication. Sometimes just managing disruptive behavior is the focus instead of fostering healing and growth. When Johnny lies to mom, steals drug money or gets into fights, a medication will not restore Johnny with pro-social life skills. It is at tenet of ART that behavior is learned and that this behavior must be unlearned. ART is evidence practiced-based and measurements are continually demonstrating successful group progress. This training is also for involving agency-team members.

This training will provide trainees much needed skills in using Restorative Practices interventions.

Benefits group leaders, co-leaders and other adult participant's at all professional levels.

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