

**LEADERSHIP  
RHODE ISLAND**

**THE  
GREATEST  
LIL'  
STATE  
ON  
EARTH**

**OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup> AT  
RHODES ON THE PAWTUXET**



**LEADERSHIP RHODE ISLAND**

**October 24, 2015**

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Facilitated by:

2015 Lambda II Class

## LEADERSHIP RHODE ISLAND: THE GREATEST LIL' STATE ON EARTH

### Overview

#### Background

Leadership Rhode Island (LRI) is completing year two (2015) of a five year project entitled: *Make Rhode Island Stronger*. The first year of the project (2014) set the stage by canvassing the state of Rhode Island for those people who effected positive change while determining what kinds of characteristics marked their actions. These findings culminated in the publication of a book entitled: Crossing the Line, profiling 61 individuals who made a marked difference in Rhode Island because of their work.

Alongside this effort, was the launching of LRI's ambitious StrengthsFinder initiative, based on the positive psychology research of Donald Clifton, and predicated on the theory of human development which focuses on individual talents rather than personal deficits. During the pilot phase of 2014, LRI administered 1,000 StrengthsFinder assessments, while having an overall goal of conducting 10,000 profiles by 2020. LRI staff and coaches were trained in conducting the profiles, using the methodology, which included training sessions with employees at work sites (public, private and nonprofit) in Rhode Island.

#### The Greatest 'Lil State on Earth

In 2015, year two of Make Rhode Island Stronger, LRI launched the most aggressive community outreach effort in its history under the theme of *Recasting Rhode Island*. With a goal of reaching all 39 cities and towns during the course of the year, to learn about community assets and community issues, LRI looked at Rhode Island through a "hyper-local" lens. Kicking the year off in January with a keynote talk by Mark Dunkelman, author of The Vanishing Neighbor, followed by the LRI class of 2015 (the 35<sup>th</sup> class offered consecutively since LRI's inception in 1981) conducting 33 community based meetings in 19 cities and towns across Rhode Island during the late winter and spring, then celebrated with a massive open to all neighborhood block party – "HI Neighbor" – in June, hosted by LRI at the Steel Yard in Providence, and culminating in the recently held statewide community convening on October 24, 2015 – at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet – entitled: *The Greatest 'Lil State on Earth*. The community convening welcomed 800 people to talk about strengths, assets, and issues facing each city and town in Rhode Island.

During 2015, LRI's StrengthsFinder initiative continued apace, conducting another 1,000 + profiles, while offering 21 coaching sessions, and 16 on site employee workshops. Tying StrengthsFinder and the importance of the expansion of social networks to the October 24<sup>th</sup> community convening were keynotes given by Jim Clifton, Gallup CEO, and Mark Dunkelman.

## Findings

As a result of this year long effort to look at Rhode Island from a micro-level, two sets of findings are being reviewed in this report, the first set based on the initial 33 community meetings hosted earlier in the year by the Lambda II Class of 2015, and the second set of findings based on notes from 64 table discussions held at the community convening on October 24, 2015. While each data set contains a vast amount of raw material, this report focuses on the top issues within each data set, meaning those issues receiving the greatest number of citations. Each list is in descending order of number of citation received.

### Data Set # 1

"Hi Neighbor" meetings conducted in late winter, early spring, 2015. Thirty three meetings conducted representing approximately 500 attendees hosted in locations in 19 cities and towns resulted in a list of 1,222 community assets. The following list offers broad categories identified as being local strengths:

- Local/small business
- Education
- Sports and Recreation
- Civic Groups
- Faith/Religious Groups
- Individual Champions
- Neighborhood Associations
- Arts and Culture Groups
- Community Organizations
- Travel/Tourism
- Environment
- Restaurants/Food

### Data Set # 2

"Greatest 'Lil State on Earth" convening on October 24, 2015. Sixty-four sets of notes reviewed. The following list identifies the top areas of discussion based on table discussions framed around issues of importance to quality of life in local communities:

- Public Education /higher education
- Environment /Open Space/Parks/Bike Paths/Coastline/Beaches
- Community connections/meet ups/associations /neighbors
- Arts/Culture/Heritage/History
- Collaboration/Partnerships/Alliances/Leverage strengths/Networking
- "Main Street/scale/small town/village/main street/livability
- Youth Groups/Associations/After School Programs
- Business/employment/economic development/internships/workforce
- Food, restaurants, farmers markets, gardens
- Diversity, immigrants, minorities, ethnicities
- Infrastructure/Public Services
- Affordable housing

## Analysis

When reviewing the two locally driven data sets, there is congruence between the two especially in the areas of:

- Education
- Environment
- Economy
- Arts/Culture/Heritage
- Food/Restaurants
- Neighborhood/Community/Civic Groups
- Youth Sports/Recreation

## Evaluation

Based on 151 responses via Survey Monkey there was a very positive sentiment regarding:

- Continuing with the effort
- Having value for the participant
- Impact of the event on participant

After the event, 44 percent of participants reported having a strongly positive attitude toward Rhode Island versus 20 percent before, and 37 percent reported a strongly positive feeling about their local community after the event, versus 19 percent before. Participants also reported substantial increases in understanding their own strengths and those of their local communities.

## Conclusion

Leadership Rhode Island intends to use the findings of its community engagement and StrengthsFinder efforts throughout 2015 as follows:

- Assisting with curriculum design and content for its core leadership program for 2016
- Helping to determine focus of LRI community based project work for 2016
- Continuing to pursue StrengthsFinder initiative, i.e., introducing profile to at least 1000 additional Rhode Islanders and offering orientations on at least 30 worksites in 2016
- Identifying possible projects at the local level, already ongoing, that could use assistance from LRI in 2016

LRI has chosen as its theme for 2016, *The Mission Continues*. Since 1981 LRI has offered its leadership program yearly and now counts over 2000 adults in its alumni ranks. Having added a College Leadership Program, over 300 college students have graduated from CLRI since 2004. LRI is dedicated to producing servant leaders for the state of Rhode Island and looks forward in 2016 to extending this proud tradition into its 36<sup>th</sup> year.

For further information about LRI, please visit our website at: [www.leadershippri.org](http://www.leadershippri.org) or call us at 401.273.1574.

*\*All data unedited*

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## EDUCATION + ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- URI Pride :)
- Education is the key to economic development. It builds our pipeline for sustainable economic development

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- NE Tech is working to fill the skills gap RI Foundation: It's All In Our Backyard
- reverse the brain drain, attract people to our assets
- 65 Companies at industry and tech career fair (most were RI companies). There are companies here that are desperate for workers but can't find people with the skills that are needed
- Apprentice Programs could be a possible opportunity
- Internships
- Providing exposure to students in low income areas to professional networks and career opportunities
- Companies like Electric Boat that have lots of positions to fill are reaching into schools to promote STEM and job opportunities
- Have a government that wants to help take down barriers and want to help

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- URI as the public land grant university here must listen to the demands of the economic landscape and ensure the universities have connections with industry competitive cities nearby (Boston and NYC)
- If we want people to live here and stay here, we need to create an environment that is friendly
- People are going to college to get a piece of paper, rather than ensuring they are passionate about, good at, and can then be hired in. We have a job placement problem rather than a skills gap - makes it difficult to get appropriate jobs, especially entry level
- Students might not be ready through the public education to take advantage of opportunities and navigate college
- Lots of obstacles in traditional public schools to provide students and families with what they need 80% of kids entering CCRI need remedial courses
- Lack of STEM education and options Lack of willingness or resistance to change guidance counselors need training on what's available - school staff needs to be knowledgeable on what are career options Inequity of funding formula Schools have too much bureaucracy - it's too challenging to arrange simple things like field trips and speakers
- Critical thinking must be taught in the schools
- We must harness the power of our universities!
- Political climate is a hindrance to economic development
- Our self-image needs to improve and we must highlight our successes

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Education is the key to economic development. It builds our pipeline for sustainable economic development. everyone shared their business cards



## EDUCATION + SMALL BUSINESS/ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Need more of an entrepreneurial approach to education reform. Small business makes up the greatest number in our economy. Schools don't really teach the life lessons that you need to succeed in life.
- The greatest gift you can give yourself is your education. Referred to her LRI experience learning about Ponagansett's regionalization.
- Improving on the current education system would really have a huge impact - individualized approaches, rather than just state testing goals etc. Kids should have mentors in the school system.
- Kindergarten-aged daughter is in a second language immersion program, which came around because of school connections with local university. Could you do that with smaller businesses?
- Really likes the dual immersion program - has a huge effect on the development of a child's brain. Schools that individualize are making a hugely important step. Home economics are falling out of schools in favor of standardized testing - things that normally we'd expect parents to do, but are not doing anymore.

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Find skills needed in RI businesses and emphasize those in schools. However, those skill sets keep changing. Keep teaching the desire to learn, so students can adapt to new workforce environments. Keep communications going with the businesses.
- 65% of the jobs that elementary students will have in the future don't exist right now. Information learned in high school is obsolete after college graduation.
- Factual recall won't get you far, but concepts and drive are the crucial skills.
- Apps. Very entrepreneurial, and educational.
- Must be challenging to get ideas off the ground.
- Desire and drive are really the biggest skill. If you have the desire, you will find the resources. Action will develop and produce answers.
- But learn flexibility and adaptability.
- Small businesses should spend more time investing in students, because that's going to be their workforce in the future. More opportunities to invest in kids would be beneficial to those students and the businesses.
- Mentoring and interning young kids as college students would also be beneficial - especially on the high school level (AM)
- Time is a huge issue but need to develop the mindset of investment in the future rather than an inconvenience.
- Internships are crucial, and usually end up in a job.
- SC: Some companies have the mindset of student interns as slave labor.



**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Huge problem is the lack of sustainability. Ideas must be 'bought into' by the entire culture.
- Constant adaptability to make the student better. Take action taken on the fly, and have the courage to do so.
- People in small businesses have dedicated their whole lives to starting their business - totally consuming, and immensely cautious risk takers.
- Governmental power is really bad - I.e. Coal industry - huge money, but should die. Government should make schools and small businesses a priority.
- Capitalism should just be allowed to occur. Capitalism versus unions debate occurring here between SC and SM.

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- An open-minded school committee is crucial!
- Community engagement in the schools is so important - especially after-school programs - need like-minded people, money, and time. Refer back to mentor comments above.
- Need people to commit their time and energies - view as a long-term investment.
- Broaden idea of school - museums, etc. There are a lot of other areas that effect schools, and need to be brought into the discussion and the change.
- Finding a way to reach out to businesses in a way that spreads the message of investment is really important. Try and get them to a way that they can benefit in the short term.

*Scribe note: I would have liked to discuss the idea of education-based small businesses, and their role in RI classrooms. That wasn't the direction our group went in, mostly because the majority of the table (4/5) was accountants with 1 educator. However, I feel like that is a big discussion that RI should have in the future - being open to businesses/organizations getting more involved in public education.*

## EDUCATION + ARTS/DESIGN

**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Board member of Tides Family Services and a mental health councilor (does works with them)
- Member of Providence Singers, Board member of RI Philharmonic (where they sometimes perform)
- Founder/Principal of charter school \*\*many at-risk students –
- Board member of Bryant College & ESL instructor at Japanese women's school - mental health professional \*\*at-risk kids
- Former Spanish instructor - ESL instructor for Japanese students
- Partner at marketing agency - former TV executive and worked with RIMA (design and usability)
- Fusion work (non-profit) – blending of arts/education program, academics through dance based in Lincoln, providence, Woonsocket and Pawtucket. Partnership with dance and academic teacher to intersect what they are learning and dance.
- Funding isn't there anymore. Left work as ED to focus on philanthropy because I was tired of seeing great projects not happen because of lack of money. Lack of funding can kill off a program almost instantly
- Data measured for funding. Art doesn't provide the numbers it's the experience and effect on the students therefore making it hard to get the funding. Play political.
- School systems are driven with core curriculum not enough time in the day to add in arts. I raise money because school is not supported by tuition loan 45% supported by philanthropy to give students what they need. Improving quality of life, enrichment etc. pitch to corporate funders who value the craft and appreciate the culture art brings
- Shift to marketing, "you should follow us because..."
- mission alignment with corporate sponsors, a "brand"
- nut you are trying to crack is who is aligned with the mission of your organization and is willing to fund it
- plain and simple the school systems should have the arts
- Classroom level teachers want the arts because they see the benefit, the challenge is the administrators. Children learn in all different ways. How do we convince our administrators who are so far removed from the classroom that this is needed because it engages students?
- The arts can be incredibly life changing for a student. So moving. Sickens me the lack of the arts. If we are lucky we get the little ones who get it up until 2nd grade maybe. Control is needed by the teacher.
- So much more than learning the thing to memorize. What makes for success in an education system and what is valued in an artistic system.

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- There is a better focus in education now on mental health and specifically the effects of poverty and trauma.

- Cities/State can learn to market themselves better. Take inspiration from the way universities attract students. We have difficulty retaining students after they graduate. Cities/State must make themselves attractive choices.
- Arts organizations don't do adequate marketing/outreach (often get pro bono work)
- RI focuses on the fine arts and not so much on the commercial arts (which translate into jobs.) Need to expand focus into those areas.
- Commerce and products manufactured depend on design. Bryant and RISD do have "design and usability" programs.
- There is no central events schedule in the city or state.
- Arts organizations should be going more into companies, companies could put time money and resources into the development of talent. Once people are in their business life they can be well served to be open to learning from the arts. Change by getting more comfortable with who they are, parts they never knew.
- Current work environment doesn't lend itself to doing things differently than they've always been done. Arts could bring this
- I am not in the business world, but I read a lot of literature on innovation going on in business like in google but I'm not hearing it translated
- People do not have the time to do all of these things. Thought that it would be good is there but since it's not imperative for business not done.
- art missing helping talented artists get careers to offer their gift to the world
- Daughter says she wants to be a painter you wonder where she is going to get dinner. Europe has opportunities for apprenticeships and certain arts but its private funding and not offered at all level. Disservice to person who is extremely talented but it does not exist for them. It's a crime.
- That's why people who have the talent don't pursue it because they can't survive so they go work somewhere else.
- We get to the point in our young adult lives where we realize we can't make a living on what we are passionate about (arts) so we transfer our skills. "Schools kill creativity" Arts are not an "extra"; schools tell kids this by labeling it that. If this changes and teachers make it matter and show how it can be a huge part of their life, the student's life journey will be different
- How do we infuse arts into our community? Education system is so tied to the political system that it's hard to make headway. Every few years new direction '

### **What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Poverty. Specifically the effects of poverty and "arly acute experiences." The importance of identifying the effects chronic poverty and how it influences behaviors and ability to learn and work/make a living. Things like hunger, lack of sleep, frequent address changes, etc. all play a role.
- The high cost of living in New England. People in some areas of the country can live more comfortably on a low wage job than people can in our area. Cashiers, retail employees for example.
- Lack of consistent positive role models and mentors, lack of opportunities for volunteers and mentorships, lack of programs similar to Tides.
- Homogeneous of political issues

- General lack of willingness to expose oneself to new or opposing ideas/concepts
- Challenging to find a way to incent people to build partnerships in communities. Useful in community building. Need to find a way to make such partnerships mutually beneficial.
- Outreach for mentorship opportunities and identifying needs and partnering those. Finding the symbiotic relationships.
- Mixed use housing and combining of different socioeconomic/age groups. Things we have heard of: 1) rooming college students in nursing homes, 2) kindergarten in nursing homes.
- Money and political challenges
- Opportunities aren't here so talented folks that we are raising are leaving the state because there are no jobs

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- I will always advocate for the arts. I am very curious because I have come across several companies who are bringing in improve companies to train leadership. Arts organization have top think out of the box. Focus can't just be about the art it's the other things they have to think about. Longer history of arts in Europe which is why opportunities exist more there.
- It is good to find connections. Find organizations that bridge the gap between business and arts worlds.

## EDUCATION/LITERACY + VETERANS/MILITARY

**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Military, education, entrepreneurship, and career counseling

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Entrepreneurship
  - Need to promote the great aspects of the state/more publicity
  - Utilize higher education
  - Move the negative perception that these aren't jobs
  - Unfavorable business client
  - Great incubators
  - Work on favorable business policy
  - Incubator program inventory + know the different styles
  - Heroes to hired:
    - Ensure institutions of higher education are promoting use of G.I. bills
    - Mentorship
    - Be nimble
    - Don't let opposition to change
    - Negative momentum
    - Piece meal opportunities
    - Get people in the door and they will stay
    - Great opportunity
    - State policies need to be created to encourage business development
    - Quonset!!
- Career counseling
  - Connect skilled labors
  - Make CCRI a technical school
  - Improve public education
  - Fast track educational opportunities/training programs to get a workforce ready
  - Promote Gov. CTE Trust
- Military – opportunities/enhancement
  - Navy/Newport
  - 30 commands in Newport
    - Partnerships with higher education
    - Need to look at economic development (marine scene) + role with military  
Quonset – on the right track but development needs to happen more quickly – no plan to develop shipping container option for the deep water port (exception – car manufacturers)
  - Take inventory + see where we can put our vets to work
  - Create action plans from reports
  - Governor's program – Real Jobs RI
  - Break the small cycle/circle of government insiders

- Consolidation of services/entitles/efforts
- Develop housing where out of state can live
  - Find work here in RI

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Career counseling
  - Focus on money?
  - Focus on meaning?
  - Put funding in secondary education rather than in remediation in community college/higher education

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and what you need?**

- This conversation is a step in the right direction
  - Connecting people that have the same interest to drive change

## EDUCATION + CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CRIME/INCARCERATION

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Underlying social justice issue.
- Lack of education creates opportunities to interact with the judicial system.
- Education is the tool belt of resources to keep you out of trouble.
- Only as successful as our least successful citizen.
- Our incarcerated citizens are presented with enormous challenges to create transition to freedom.
- Validation is essential - can start at young age
- Foundational elements to exist in society. Be a part of a community

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- An opportunity for second chances
- We need an asset map of resources - online - interactive
- Connect transitioning offender with a mentor-a human connection
- Diversion system

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Money Buy in from major stake holders
- Change the mindset of the communities for offenders as they transition
- Education society about the offender cycle
- Humans have the capacity for change
- Failed mental health system - it permeates through everything.

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Time in the day...hard to balance both
- Become the catalyst.



## EDUCATION/LITERACY + HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- If you are not literate enough you are not going to be able to get good housing. They are part of the same cloth. In Providence, where my children were educated years ago, it is closed. It was a model education school, a neighborhood school. I am strong supporter of good public education. At some point I also had to be my children's advocate. Eventually my former spouse and I took them out of the public education system and moved to private. At some point a few years ago, I was approached by a young woman who traveled to find the homeless. There was a time when there were tents on the State House Lawn. I lived in that tent while having a full time job. I learned to manage. This experience has affected my performance interacting with people.
- Education and Literacy affects how many opportunities, gains, and means you will have towards housing. The type of housing also creates a divide (rent, own, etc.). If you are illiterate you won't be able to communicate and know what is going on (taxes, insurance, etc.). It changes the dynamic of things. It drives investors and trickles down to all communities.
- "Red-Lining Communities": Individuals were being shunned by certain communities and were limited to develop in those areas.
- Difficulty to these things all together. Education is my main focus. The Providence Schools (I am no expert) from what I see, they are underfunded. There are physical plans, but things are horrible.
- Several of my students are homeless. Many of them are in-between housing.

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- We have some very well-endowed institutions of higher learning. They could be doing their part to help the community. Ex: Broad Street Area. There needs another source of income to create change. More volunteers are needed.
- I haven't volunteered in the schools. But there are certain programs that cannot happen without volunteers.
- Vacant properties. The mayor has proposed to look at these buildings. You can tell where these buildings are.
- Living outside of society, while earning funds. There are others that are going through the vents, but if I had to focus on one thing it would be homelessness because of children that don't have places to be.
- There are so many vacant properties that are just sitting there, there is an opportunity. We should look to find ways to speed up the process and see what the city can do to help. Other communities can take advantage of the Providence's System.
- The homeless don't need more shelters they need a home.
- We need to meet the basic needs. We need guidance counselors and psychology that are willing and able to perform their roles, limited from administrative tasks.

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- There is a lot of racial segregation in our state.
  - Greenwich: Very Segregated
  - Providence: Very Diverse
- A lot of families I have seen have put their kids into private school, and yes each school will have their strengths and areas of improvement, however racial segregation in schools is a big thing.
- Taxes are a huge problem regarding housing. There is a lot of other ways to invest into the state. Bringing in Businesses and Other Companies.
- There are not a lot of concert solutions to solve ethic issues.
- If you are talking about education, let's go back to some of the best teachers in Western History. To think that throwing money at education to think things will be fixed is insane. We don't need much or any of that other weight; we just need the right teachers that are there for their students who are able to encourage the culture of challenging their minds.
- The challenge is meeting basic needs first. We have money and it is limited to how we can use it. We are not teaching our kids what they need to teach them. We need to look at how we are allocating funds, resources, and volunteers.
- Social Services: A lot of times I would sit in my tent and I would listen. The slips they distributed were trying to move them along. They are getting paid to push people aside.
- Nutrition is something that can be improved. I haven't read anything that is making that a priority. It is disorganized.
- We need more section 8 housing. If you are making X amount in one area over another it can affect the amount you get in subsidies. This affects directly were you are going to live. It should be structured in a way so that you do not have to choose one town over another. It is a self-fulfilling prophecy.
- It is a challenge to get everyone talking each other.
- Transparency is an issue. We do not know how much money is being allocated throughout the different towns, or we are not effectively communicated to us. There should be a standard.

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- We have to if anything is going to come from it.
- Create more forums (like Millennial Professionals Group)

## EDUCATION/LITERACY + HEALTH/WELLNESS/MEDICINE

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- How to get the message out to people and educate those around you
- Where the deficiencies are in your area
- Scientists are miserable translators
- Science vocabulary is too confusing
- Getting attention about your cause
- Experiential learning
- Thinking about things differently than you Normally would
- Not about the movement, it's about something else in your life
- Little habits- something bigger
- Choice smart
- Start with the leaders in your town
- Meet the question first

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Cognitive changes started by Ticks
- Starting with the younger generations
- Building a culture of health and wellness
- Adopting tangible goals
- If you didn't know, you didn't know
- Backwards design- start with the end and figure out how you would get there

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Funding
- Using the internet as a resource
- Healthcare costs
- Benefits for financial and options
- Is it apart of the education
- Do the people really understand it?

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Read book- Nudge - Nudging everybody to move forward
- Creating medical records
- Health committees in the schools
- Set the model
- State healthcare committees
- Computer literacy programs

## EDUCATION + ENVIRONMENT/NATURE

**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- RISD all about steam and going on the RIPTA bus to make art. Inner city kids should have more exposure to environmental areas
- Our small size enables people to get everywhere (in theory). People afraid of the environment. May get interested in the natural sciences
- In Chicago, there are no fields or streams. We have skiing, lots of diversity
- All of my low income families in my school are part of house group. Parents afraid of kids going on field trips to Block Island. Can't imagine getting away from their video world. The world is so scary for them. Even going to RISD/the zoo. Buses/lunches are all free. But parents had to go too and none of them would. They don't want to go to the YMCA. Even with babysitters provided and money provided. Lots of excuses
- They don't feel like they're in their element
- Self-conscious of their status
- The nature conservatory can bring that to their environment, where they feel comfortable. Awareness of biking and playing in the backyard. Kids now are online, watching TV
- Would bringing them on a bus work?
- Rhode Island Resource and Recovery facility is a cool place to visit. People learn how its down problems with packaging. Children should be taught this from Day 1
- Remaxx offers tours of these facilities to the schools. Connections in local community are how you can influence kids
- But would people put down their phones and use these places?
- Maybe in hospitals they need something better than iPad

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Opportunities particularly around water. Riverside Mills park → cleaning it up has engaged the community
- Maybe marketing/communication needs to be improved
- National standards for science have required every unit to bring kids outside and they have to do it
- Way to connect environmental organizations with schools. Bring in mentors for teachers (adapt a classroom or teacher)
- Newspapers provide opportunities about natural activities. You do not need to spend money to enjoy nature. Make this tree aspect sexy
- Cost of getting to different places
- Can get colleges and high schools involved with elementary school environmental education. People want to go out and do things
- Did you read "A Walk in the Woods"? Yes! Book discussion ensues LRI book club formation

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- RIPTA tries very hard but the funding instructions limit them. Train not feasible for people in low-income Providence communities. People riding RIPTA can be rowdy and not respect the environmental problem with the free buses in the summer
- Importance of completing and marketing bike paths. Need to link RIPTA to the beginning of the bike path
- Ran the bike path and Route 6/ hunting laws turn people off from using the bike path. In South Kingstown lots of hunting gun shots. Trail should be better marked/cleaner
- Connect trails with communities
- Hard to get around Memorial Boulevard, as a pedestrian. How do you guys get kids out there safely?
- Out west on Route 90 there's a nice bridge through the woods
- Same kids, are lucky to have the importance of nature brought to them
- Awareness about natural elements and community groups
- A lot of people haven't been to Block Island. They need to discover Rhode Island advertise Rhode Island to Rhode Islanders. Increase "wow" effect and everyone will come
- People need to be ambassador to connect people to place
- We should be a diplomat for our environment. Self-discover Rhode Island
- Each year there could be a theme. Trees, rivers, etc.
- Learn about the history of our rivers
- Events are ways to spread knowledge. Mountain field at the zoo brought it to the zoo. Even competitive events
- The website "Meet up" is great
- Retreats are also really great and a lot of people go
  - West Alton Jones retreats for LRI
- How do you bring students to these places?

## ENVIRONMENT/NATURE + SENIOR CITIZENS/ELDERLY

**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Environment and nature – preserving spin accessible spaces in nature

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Parks as community spaces
- Awareness of public parks, historic sites, interesting environmental spaces
- Refurb old spaces instead of over developing new spaces
- Better ushering between – bay/parks and business, e.g. scrapyards pollution on bay can be reduced
- Public campaigns, e.g. no laundry when it's pouring rain as that grey water leeches out; helps the overflow
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade exposure to sustainability
- RI Philharmonic program with 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> graders
  - Exposure to issues/ideas/programs a young age leads to involvement
- Senior citizens as untapped network for community volunteer e.g. amateur networks of retirees are effective at scene outreach similar campaigns or environmental issues?

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Why is recycling in parks difficult?
- Education matters. Simple individual steps in congress make big changes
- Coot (to planet) of not eating local? Huge
  - Document better convenience and health
- Climate change research shows that non-experts can be overwhelmed by the negativity of it/ the issues being insurmountable (Earth is broken)
  - Fix: Focus on soon. Things that can be done positively to effect a greater level (help planet)
- RI faces similar issues of negativity what are the small actionable items citizens can do to effect change without being overwhelmed by the “negativity” of generations (manufacturing losses → job losses → 38 Studios etc.)

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and what you need?**

- Can we create forums or take these conversations out into public arenas?

## FOOD/BEVERAGE + ENVIRONMENT/NATURE

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Land trust gardening
- Community Land Trust coordination between agencies
- Landlink.org
- Farm Fresh

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- State wide planning building – patio outside the building – something be done with this
- Food policy
  - Raw milk cheese
  - Was working with Department of Health
  - Review policies now being done
- RI Hospitality Council – membership of restaurant owners. Helps restaurants learn what needs to be done and pass food inspections
- Every place should be inspected yearly
  - Have a grade system for each inspection
- One place to go get links for food safety separated from the Department of Health
- Celebrate our food here in RI
- Getting food not used by gardeners and farms and get them to those that need it
- Find a way to identify land trust where people could farm
- Convince local markets and super markets to have and identify local products
- Preserve local food for preserving our RI heritage and our RI economy

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Enforcement issues
  - Need to improve and work together
- RI Food Policy trying to make improvements
- So many different nationalities with different food needs
- Communication
- Better connections



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION + ENVIRONMENT/NATURE

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Nature conservancies, land trusts, and historic preservation groups all work together to keep RI as close to its natural history.
- Keeping history alive, but keeping the environment safe

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Creating more "open space" for people to come together
- Enhance the fields of interest by promoting untapped lands that people can explore

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Having all of this "open space" but people not using it or being aware of the uses of it
- Understanding of long-term value: educating people on the value and importance of preservation/conservation

## CHILDREN + EDUCATION + ENVIRONMENT

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Everything done for the past ten years around analyzing education standards has been a waste of time. Teachers have less time to spend on teaching because they have to do so much analysis.
- Kids spend so much time texting, on computers. Need to get them back out into nature. Connect them to all things nature: land, sea, recycling, Audubon, hands on activities etc.

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Regionalize? Specialized high schools
- More public recreational facilities
- Girl scouts and boy scouts
- College students, business and professional people to do more mentoring.

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Instability of kids in living in two different homes or kids living in shelters (homeless)
- Teachers cannot do all the social service work some kids need

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Yes. Helping to convene groups around these issues would be very helpful

## CHILDREN/YOUTH + ENVIRONMENT/NATURE

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Education: we have a student who has recently been through the system; as well as a few teachers, and getting kids to get back outside

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Getting kids back outside
- Have workshops
- More after school activities for children of all ages
- Portsmouth green club
- Mentoring

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- there's a lot of testing: takes a lot of time from the school day
- spending time on analyzing data (like are they improving)
- seeing a lot of youth texting-- need to get them back outside
- Police relations with the youth

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Better police relations with the youth
- You would need more mentoring
- Possible regionalization

## CHILDREN/YOUTH + AGRICULTURE/AQUACULTURE

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Cranston Public Library – Summer program service program (tree plantings over the last 3 years)
- Rhode Island tree planting association

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest.**

- Better communication; more art in the community on displayed; building displays; Cranston Public Library about 10 to 11 times a year offer public galleries; incorporating art into public utility boxes; finding out businesses that can partner with these organizations; youth education and early intervention
- As many forms of education and intervention as early as possible.

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- The funding as well as maintaining the funding; If you implement this wonderful program what will ensure that it will remain funded throughout the years
- Taxpayers; State aid;
- Too many administrations within the 39 cities and towns in Rhode Island.
- Consolidate administrations to cut overhead costs  
Ex. Smithfield libraries two separate administrations
- Borrow a book from any library within Rhode Island
- Willingness to change; give something up;
- Organizational challenge; with Providence Planting Association; low overhead

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Community engagement

## EDUCATION + AGRICULTURE + ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Climate change biggest issue - will completely transform all of our lives.
- People are not paying attention to how we use our land.
- Individuals working in agriculture or growing crops in the vineyards are noticing a difference in crops, community appearance.
- Food policy and growing 50% of our food locally by 2016 in ways of preparing for natural disasters.
- Economic development is non-existent within Providence due to "green improvement".
- Brown University purchasing land for agricultural development and decreasing potential for economic development.
- Growing and economic development missing in RI.
- Keep educated people in RI - loss of graduates does not contribute to economic development.
- Job opportunities low
- Economic development (building new job opportunities or facilities) does not ensure people will come.
- Ex: Woonsocket has many vacant properties that CVS could purchase but they choose to keep the company situated in a suburban area - decreasing the potential for job opportunities for citizens of the town.
- No clear policy of how to maintain industrial space; small business do not have proper information to grow.

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- We need more industrial space.
- Bureaucracy slowing the process down
- Quonset has restructured infrastructure to allow for more buildings, transportation, etc.
- Providence has scrap, oil fields and minimal buildings housings for an increase in job opportunities and growth.
- Efforts to develop shipping partnership in RI are plausible, yet there is no knowledge on how to perform.
- Dredging helps the community - further increase
- Think creatively about our local resources.

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Water is huge, final commodity.

- One of the ways to prosperity, how do we reduce average household cost? Big drivers of household cost?
- Health care is mechanized --- healthcare will continue to increase.
- Invest in wellness; valued choices to better health.
- Expensive to live WELL ENOUGH and HEALTHY in RI.
- Quality of neighborhoods, how do we build an economy with prosperity, better life for the community?
- A third of our State's revenue is based on gambling and casinos, which does not return to the community.
- Losing students to other higher-job opportunities in different states.
- Competitive salaries across the board nationwide.
- Individuals leave job opportunities within 1-3 years in RI --- lack of growth.
- No financial security for people on the lower-end of the economic pyramid.
- Non-profit institutions are oppressive (financial sense)
- Contributing factors regarding poverty that as a society we do not ASK.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT + INTERNATIONAL/TRAVEL + HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- A comprehensive strategy to develop people and economy
- Microcosm of the world
- Closing deficits in marketing for neighborhoods
- Market historical preservation of Rhode island for development
- More government incentives for businesses to preserve buildings
- Homelessness is connected to economic inequality and
- Connecting with indigenous people and more inclusive of their culture all preservation
- Getting more kids involved to learn about history and with to preserve it

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- History of Narragansett could be taught; use history as economic
- Community artwork on buildings
- More filming: to create a sense of pride in the community Implement foreign languages earlier I public education; more international educational experience
- Monuments
- International partnerships with students and other community members
- National historic park of Blackstone valley
- Focus on governments initiatives for new tourism ideas

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Superman building
- Unwillingness to move past mediocrity, take risks
- Ethics if state officials, accountability for actions
- Limited selection of attractive locations for businesses to start
- Managing relationships with successful partners

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Stricter definition of what is cultural support; emphasizing cultural connections rather than race community support and personal connections
- Designing an infrastructure for a project then creating a concrete strategy; find people that can fulfill the rules for needed projects
- Leadership Rhode island volunteers working with children to develop strengths
- Getting youth to buy into strength based thinking



- Database of LRI participants with keywords and affinity groups that is searchable to collaborate on projects.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT + MEDIA/TECHNOLOGY/COMMUNICATION

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Social Media for businesses and modernizing
- Tourism
- Since RI/MA border one another, it's cheaper to do business in MA \*Going across the border to get gas or buy a house
- Higher taxes in RI \*People would rather buy a house in the neighborhood communities in MA since the taxes are much cheaper than in RI
- There are some people who want to keep the communities the same and not expand but that's also hurting the developing of RI
- Also, have the college graduates stay in RI and well known or stronger businesses pick that graduate up and make RI stronger

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Talk to politicians to reach out to RI about businesses and development

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- How do we make Coventry as strong as another city like West Warwick
- Getting the right people on board and committed
- Employers going back to the drawing board and finding the right applicants to keep people in the younger generation with new ideas and stay here

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Go back to businesses and makes changes as an employer

## EDUCATION/LITERACY + CULTURE/DIVERSITY

**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Strategic partnerships with universities and industries
- Connection between schools and industries where students can see themselves going into
- E.g. Strategic partnerships to get more girls interested in physics, engineering
- Professional development/training for teachers to be culturally responsive
- Lifelong processes
- Education happens in professional spaces
- Need for diverse leaders in different industries – reflect on the environment that dissuades people from staying there
- What does that history say about the institution?
- Pointed strategies to address issues of equity
- Race belongs to everyone, not just to people of color
- Opportunities need to start from families
- Ideas get set pretty young in children
- Need to work not just with students but with families
- E.g. families not encouraging deaf students to go college despite them being very bright
- Convincing parents to go to college a hard task
- Diversity comes in all forms – religion, ability, race, disabilities
- Create an environment that allows discussion to be honest and open
- Deaf students are very bright – employers need to be committed to hire and retain
- Successful industry leaders to be role leaders
- Diversity
- Currently, opportunities not utilized.
- Need to start from children
- Minorities not very exposed
- Environment diversity
- Leadership – people to accept and teach young women about the opportunities that are accessible to them

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Get them early on – early access to ideas/opportunities
- Higher success rate
- Restructure pathway to success
- Educational models that do not rely on a strict educational pathway – barrier to opportunity
- College degree necessary to get jobs – limits opportunities to people who did not have equal access to opportunities when they were young
- Who are we conferring opportunities to?
- How do we expand our networks and be more compassionate to people that we do not usually interact with? – e.g. first generation students

- How to create education models that encourage diversity and caters to a diverse community
- How to be more explicit when we define who is a Rhode Islander?
- If you don't have diversity in the workspace, less mentors to inspire diverse
- Mentorship is very important – mentorship
- Intersection of culture and heritage – not having diversity would affect your thoughts
- Engage parents in diverse ways so we engage parents who are different (e.g. if Latino parents do not speak English, engage them in Spanish)
- Intersectionality, no longer just about race, but gendered and religious issues
- Intersection of many issues
  - E.g. shortage of people of color who teach the deaf – shortage of role models
- Bring in mentors in a less structured capacity
- Hard to hire people of so much diversity but the short term solution is to bring in people of diversity from other industries that can inspire school children (e.g. a female engineer)
  - Develop partnership with a company that would come into schools.

### **What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Mindset and culture
- Media stereotypes
- Teach 2 languages to children from a young age
- Treating talents and gifts as a separator
- For e.g. if Spanish is not the students first language, their bilingualism can be a strength
- Low expectations of students – no acknowledgement
  - Detrimental to development of students - students pick up on it
- Pressures of leading an industry – not showing your weakness – need to create spaces for leaders to engage in the work they need to do – creating diversity, opportunity equity
- Growth mindset

### **Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Everyone is responsible for education, not just teachers
- More time to learn and speak about issues, make connections
- Important issues need to be addressed
- Build a middle ring – keep middle ring alive – do not want self-selection
- But diversity cannot be forced upon them – affects success of diverse teams
- Real poverty needs to be discussed – who is going to make changes to this situation
- Poverty can be overwhelming, hinders children's development
- Interconnectedness between different communities
- Using time creatively
- Many modes to encounter information
- Movement to address issue of middle ring – get real, authentic
- Gather people and get them to interact with people of different backgrounds
- Need to interrogate our choices – e.g. not embracing diversity in choices of housing – all white neighborhoods
- Challenge to diversity

- Privilege breeds mediocrity
- Distribute resources better, allow communities to engage meaningfully with one another
- The most diverse teams are the most successful
- Aids innovation

## DIVERSITY/CULTURE/HERITAGE + ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Diversity of cultures has led to barriers being broken down and rules being abandoned. Diversity leads to open-mindedness and new thinking and that is key for economic development.
- Economic development goes hand in hand with creative thinking, which is fostered by diversity  
\*We talked generally about the idea of dressing with an eye to cultural context.
- Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket is a good example of how these topics tie in. Also the food incubator business in Warren (Hope & Main) - people are making money bringing food from their cultures.
- Interracial/intercultural marriage. Acceptance and understanding leads to economic development.

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- StyleWeek is a big deal. It is a big economic engine. Diversity and culture at RISD, etc. is reflected in the styles on the runway. RI is embracing our heritage with jewelry. Important for us to retain graduates. Brainpower in RI is untapped; we need to reverse the brain drain.
- I patented an idea for clothing that can capture your vital signs. \*\*The table was very impressed with this! He was a finalist in a business plan competition but could not raise enough capital to move forward with the idea. The idea was motivated by his in-law's passing after he had a heart attack. We talked about the idea of using this technology to monitor the elderly, for athletes, etc.

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Many people around the country are not promoting diversity. There is a threat that we will return to the dark ages with people being closed-minded.
- Difficult for diverse communities to access capital.
- it's always a challenge to raise capital and get the final product out the door
- Poor education is a barrier to economic development

## EDUCATION + SOCIAL ENTERPRISE + MEDIA/COMMUNICATION

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Media and communication is a way to spread ideas about anything, including those that are here.
- Intersection between education and entrepreneurship is significant. There are two members interested in creating apps to supporting education and students. Technology is changing the social construct of what we thought education is.
- Exposure to new ideas - you only know what's possible if you have been exposed to it.
- Education opens doors to all of these areas at the table.

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- High school degree and college readiness are not the same. How can we provide services and access to high quality education that prepares students for college?
- Providing practical experiences within our community to prepare students before they get to college. We need more of these adults and businesses to offer this level of support to students. It's happening but how do we scale this was the focus of a large part of our conversation.
- Thinking about our strengths and the focus is here today. Career exploration and strengths are connected.

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- There is a skills gap in RI. There are jobs but there aren't enough candidates to fill them. How do we connect employers into the education programs?
- We are always trying to find THE ONE solution instead of nurturing innovation and seeing what develops. There is a need to develop ideas as well as develop the people.
- Allow for rapid prototyping of the education model. We don't need to pass legislation--we need to allow for multiple ways and allow parents and students to opt into them.
- Use more resources (some pockets of innovation in higher education) but need more, across K-16,
- We have to change the way that parents think about opportunities and their children's future.
- Opening the doors wider for opportunities. Networking opportunities, meeting with mentors--things that college students (after high school) only have access too.

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**



- We need a forum to innovate, particularly innovate within education. There are two table members that are innovating with their own idea right now--they need schools and educators to embrace their idea.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT + TRANSPORTATION

**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Connections between infrastructure of roads and the economic development of areas
- People chose to locate in RI because of the close transportation opportunities
- Choosing where to live based off of closeness to on/off ramp
- Improving the access into towns would improve economic growth
- Micro level
  - Transportation – transit access has direct impact on land use
    - Need to have smart land use for better econ development
- Improving public transit
  - Used to attract better young people
  - Need to compete with the public transit system for the young talent

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest. (be specific)**

- Opening up to competition to boost options and smarter ways
- Reduce barriers to entry to promote entrepreneurial business
- Proposal to build a rail system
  - 1.6 miles
  - Cost \$100 million
  - Supposed to generate econ development
  - Is this necessary?
- The big capital projects - seem unsuccessful, change the way we decide projects
- Collective low self-esteem as a state
  - Need to focus on our strengths
  - We have been underachievers in RI and we need to change that
- Locals don't realize the great resources they have in RI

**3. What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability? (be specific)**

- Biggest challenge is being able to institute change and make it work fiscally responsible
- Establishments and vested interests cause maybe problems to change
- Sustainability
  - Revitalizing/refurbishing "rebuild RI tax credit"
  - And there is a credit that counters that -> why???
- 1-95 relocation project
  - Costs were misconstrued
  - Promises were not kept
  - All this land that was "opened up" to high paying companies and that isn't happening
- Many challenges

- Look for the one big win
  - Need more a focus on many smaller wins
  - Infrastructure needs to be in a better shape to support a great economy
- People don't trust each other
  - Residual distrust
  - Town vs town
  - Industries vs
- So create more accountability
  - Way to much talking with zero action
  - Entails a cultural problem in RI that needs to be solved
- Bridges
  - Bond issuance
    - Doesn't make sense,
    - Good we weaned off of that
  - User fees
    - Makes sense
    - But tolling and issuing bonds to raise funds doesn't work

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Economic development
  - There are now many more discussions of this
  - We don't need new discussion panels
  - Just get more people to actually do things
- We are becoming a more popular convention area
  - We need to try to get even more of these type of business/organization connections
- State needs to let the rest of the world know what it has to offer
  - 6-7 regional tourism boards
  - BUT these groups are marketing totally different markets
  - Different interests
  - Maybe they need an umbrella org/campaign to promote RI and then have niche's

## TOURISM/HOSPITALITY + LAND USE

**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Newport County – Tennis Hall of Fame bought one acre of land, abandoned property
  - Visionary board members purchased instead an architect to make new design more inclusive
  - Beautified area and preserved shigeru-style architecture in area
  - Used land to expand opportunity to do what we do
  - Land use to change our communities
    - Doing tennis lessons for middle school students in Newport
- Would like to see organizations like RI Historical Society reaching out to middle class
  - Change perception that “only rich people do these things”
- Johnston Historical Society – we would welcome anybody
  - Same problem as many societies: demographics is older
- Catch 22 – tourism and hospitality depend on quality of land use but at the same time many people don’t want change
  - Change can be painful and expensive
- Cumberland 35 year future
  - How to capitalize on history of town
- Part of our mission is community
  - Have to balance, cater to members/tourists, and locals
- Hope Artiste village – inside has community but locals don’t utilize space
- Coastline of RI – we don’t have monstrous hotels. RI has done a beautiful job of preserving coastline. But you need to have lodging for people to stay. Great example is The Break in Narragansett
- Nantucket – preserve housing access for middle class “little slice of heaven” beach houses

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Connecting bike paths around the whole state
- The great outdoors – promoting
- Marketing the state – branding, planning, theories, and product development
- Agritourism
- Historic spots could be better utilized
- Example of South County Commons
  - Residents didn’t want development because it would block view
  - How do you build with sensitivity and respect?
- Newport Yachting Center Purchase
  - Lost all of those festivals concert series that moved to India Point Park in Providence
- Private –public partnership success story = Fort Adams
- Judicious investors in infrastructure could enhance RI’s tourism
- Use waterways – parking in Quonset – lots of docks
- More ferries to connect the ocean state (water taxis)

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Money
- Change the dialogue about Rhode Island if we want people to come, we need to be positive
- Achieving consensus
- Negativity or resistance to change
- Need to try ideas to see what works

## SMALL BUSINESS/ENTREPRENEURSHIP + IMMIGRANTS/REFUGEES

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Strong drive to not give up
- Learning English – fete to itself – goal for yourself to learn
- Develop ability to make other goals and don't take for granted
- Harder for immigrants from years ago – compare to those now
- Refugee just came from Liberia – no education/basic English
- Fear and lack of confidence
- Looking at cultural sensitivity
- Look at strength
- Refugee/immigrant are very dehumanizing
- Utilizing past students in programs as mentors
- Mentors
- Small business person/refugee/immigrants are risk takers
- Assimilating and adapting to place and business culture
- Building curriculum and basic language skills
- Allow them to take ownership
- When people are engaged – do better

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- More resources for immigrants and existing skills – create opportunities for new arrivals
- Most employers are looking for employees and transferable skills
- Looking at staff (people) as uniquely individuals
- Dynamics of looking at what each individual brings

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Forgetting that immigrants comes in with much skills – but, not recognized because lacking degree
- Need to have patience/not recognized
- Bring immigrants mixed support in anchoring the so called American Dreams
- Huge lack of resources to provide services and support to programs that supports immigrant population
- Trained workforce as a whole
- Cultural sensitivity training
- Harkens back to jobs for everyone
- Lack of empathy

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversion and what you need?**

- Companies to open programs for sensitivity training – teach employees how to interact with those who are different than them
- People don't have the cultural intelligence
- A lot of companies not investing in their employees
- Industry professionals/partners come together and have a dialogue to see what the risk/benefits are
  - Risk out-weighs

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT + GOVERNMENT

**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- CVS is very inviting. People don't necessarily choose Rhode Island. People don't think about it first, for a lot of different reasons. Hopes that in the future people will want to come here?
- Sharing a passion for the arts and culture.
- Art Center, we share an interest for the arts. Shared experience with orchestra performing in Jamestown, hopes to expand the arts in Rhode Island. This state is so wonderful because of the opportunity and diversity.
- Smithfield has a huge opportunity for young people, and job opportunities. People don't stay and grow their community. Taxes are a lot more favorable in Mass versus Rhode Island. Lived in other states, but nothing compares to Rhode Island.
- Arts and business.
- Economic development and military affiliation. How do the arts and business expand our community and better our state? Optimism in our community. "Mediocre to be in Rhode Island" Hard to retain people. Temporary state of mind within the community.
- Everyone has a business background; we all hope to create better businesses and opportunities for young people. People move away for tax reasons.

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- There's a draw to get young people to stay. Not necessarily just tourism but creating social enterprises. Supporting businesses is essential in RI.
- We need a PR campaign to get more traffic to RI.
- Tourism is a great source of traffic for Jamestown and overall Rhode Island. People never know until they come and have a good experience. Jamestown can't keep young people, because of the expensive cost of living. Downtown businesses are dying because of large businesses. Organic farms, eggs, meats, yet people will drive "over the bridge" to save on expenses. Being ambassadors of Rhode Island.
- The leaving population is a part of the negative stigma. Changing the perception of Rhode Island is step one. Public servants such as Lincoln Chafee reflect the Rhode Island stereotype. Reach out to other communities and showcase strengths.
- Access is key; one bridge going to Worcester creates tremendous business. Encouraging people to bring business here. Creating businesses for young people. Manufacturers claim that they can't hire skilled laborers. Manufacture is no longer manual labor it's more high-tech.
- Nurture inter-level connections to grow our own personal avenues. National firms come to Providence to beta-test markets. Macklemore tested his albums here. Capitalize on the connections and support each other's projects. Do more to make the smallest state younger. Work towards cultivating something bigger.
- The opportunity is to discover the strengths (arts, place to eat, business, etc...) and to focus on the positive. Capitalize on the strengths, similar to Gallup. We can be an all in one hub for transit. Newport is a great example of creating stable paying jobs. We need to showcase the state to bigger players. Exposure is KEY.



**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Healthcare in general is very low on reimbursement. It's hard to keep physicians in Rhode Island. Insurance companies give back a lower reimbursement rate. Mass and Connecticut are much better off. All sorts of technology coming to the medical field that's changing the way doctors' practice. People feel hopeless; our state moto is hope not hopeless.
- Work more with less, and is happy to break even with her law firm. "Earn a lot less and build a community" people need to adapt to asking for less and be comfortable with more.
- People need to be open to evolving. Smithfield has rejected other companies that try to come in and build. People there want Smithfield to stay the same, versus allowing it to evolve. Wishes that people would be more open to evolving.
- There's so much on a focus on a mindset that's outdated. Business is not keeping up with the times. The system is changing; the machine doesn't have a shape anymore. Come up with solutions that allow for a more open and comfortable living environment for young people. To Deb's topic, talked about working with Medicaid and discusses how the struggle is on his end.
- The United States spends 9-10% on health care more than any other Country. We are spending more for a lousy product.

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- There should be more conversations like this. The more we talk positively and the more we engage the community the higher our chances are to make positive impacts.
- Optimistic speaking will help continuing this positive image and mindset. Get out of comfort zone and continue discussion

## SMALL BUSINESS/ ENTREPRENEURSHIP + CIVIC/COMMUNITY/ NEIGHBORHOOD

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Neighborhood and businesses are tied together to create a happy/ healthy community.
- Businesses are based on a happy community; if someone is happy with the business they will be more willing to visit the business.
- Civic groups and small businesses are working towards the benefit of the neighborhood/ community.
- Neighborhood associations are based on the willingness of the community contributing.
- The interests go hand in hand to create associations, make relations and improve the community.
- Local businesses should support the community

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Hope Street has taken significant actions to create a good community.
- Local businesses can be improved by supporting their surrounding neighborhood/ community.
- Create a billboard/ advertising
- Connections
- Associations, communities are able to achieve different things for their community through communication. You can transfer assets by teaching other what they are able to do.
- Include other individuals who represent the demographics of the association

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Communication creates a big barrier for progress.
- Face-to-face communication.

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Unsure, have not thought about this before.
- Have to learn more about the situation to get involved.
- Communication, good network

## HEALTH/WELLNESS/MEDICINE + MEDIA/COMMUNICATION/TECHNOLOGY

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Use of tech to help companies decrease medical costs
- All are going through some major changes
- Social connection: motivation, Desire to improve productivity through health and tech
- Ability to reach out and communicate to each other to support health goals
- Need for total wellbeing: stress from work can be minimized if add health component to daily lifestyle
- Technology is also becoming an impediment to building relationships

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Focus on wellness and technology: Continued need to innovate
- Challenge to change the mindset of smaller RI companies that there is value in healthy employees
- Using apps by larger companies to make health readily available, while smaller companies may think the technology is not available or too expensive. How can we support these smaller companies understand the available resources to them
- The time needed to focus on this issue: recommend use of networking opportunities to help them learn about resources available to them
- Knowledge gap: small businesses don't know about the programs available to them to improve access to technology for health
- Need to focus on the outcome of not focusing on health
- Difficult and costly for companies to keep systems updated, which may create hesitation
- Need for education on the importance of health, raise awareness
- May need to consider the need to network

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Yes would like to continue the discussion but need an audience
- Need for destination/networking events and opportunities to share ideas on how to keep employees productive
- Opportunity to share and participate: include an HR partner with proponent. Use trade show format, ongoing meetings. Focus would be on quick wins and reporting to show ROI on investment. Yes, in a more local manner using Chamber of Commerce type meetings with guest speakers
- Motivation would be needed to get people interested
- List of benefits to help with discount to improve participation

# MEDIA/COMMUNICATION/TECHNOLOGY + LIBRARIES

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Communicating & connecting between different fields.
- Business doesn't talk to the arts community; technology community doesn't talk to either. We need to be blending ideas. We're losing the ability to communicate.
- There was a lot of discussion about technology & middle ground discussions
- Bringing people together & interacting - leveraging these connections - Technology & Business

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Neighborhood associations
- Meetup Groups
- Residents can be more outspoken about their communities
- Leverage Social Media events management
- Volunteering for organizations

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Talking about involvement versus doing it
- Accessibility & Commonality - Hard to find similar elements between generations
- Time for meetings
- Business, apathy, self-centered behavior
- Finding more opportunities out there

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Matches and network
- Coffee & Food - people all share these types of needs, and it brings people together
- Speaking Engagements / Forums / Community Involvement - interface with people that want to make a difference, and are capable of doing so
- Specific guidelines & issues that need to be discussed (in essence: Action plans!!!)

## MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS/TECHNOLOGY + SENIOR CITIZENS/ELDERLY

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Seniors not up on social media
- Technology also impedes on meeting new people; makes building communities harder with polarization

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Break down isolation with computer rooms in Senior Living?
- Not much outreach with senior nonprofits – not reaching out to other resources, possibly because of polarization
- College students + organizations always looking for opportunities

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Papers are down – web is easier, more selective
- Community papers connected community

## CIVIC/COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOOD + MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS/TECHNOLOGY

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Media tech/communications brings communities together
- "If you can get community support, you'll get the political will to change something."
- rallying the community around the name of the community
- spread awareness that there is money available
- media is key to promote what's going on and what needs attention in communities
- there's a website called "volunteer match" that connects those who need volunteers (causes and nonprofits) with those who want to volunteer
- Serve Rhode Island accomplishes many of the same objectives ^^
- it's important to reach people the way they want to be reached
- huge opportunity for high schools and colleges to offer internships to help accomplish the above objectives
- let's put student voices on town councils
- Everyone wants to be part of the discussion--media is the opportunity to join it.

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Internships!!
- changing the idea of community service as a requirement but as something that's prideful
- tap the (affordable) talent available at the universities in the area
- -the internet! Case study of a website where retired persons taught English (via Skype) to children overseas.
- Senior living home that offered discounted housing for students to bring both ends of the spectrum under one roof.
- college/high school mentors with technology
- capture the students who want to stay here or come home to RI
- Uniqueness of providence: it's a college city, not a college town. really unique selling point
- let's bring people into the colleges to show students the state's opportunities
- find a way to show students what there is outside of providence
- extend the commuter rail to weekends to Kingstown
- RI is so small, but there are so many unique villages
- allow specific geo locations to specialize within their industries so they don't compete, they compliment
- THE UNIVERSITIES
- promote why diverse communities should come for their specific needs
- "a state so small you can do it all"

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- slacktivism

- how to get to the next step beyond sharing the cause
- finding a way to create a critical mass of people to actually make change and make enough noise
- Unsolvable problems--show people what's actually possible!
- it takes lots of resources and creativity to succeed on overcoming slacktivism
- bringing the right people together at the right time is really important and challenging
- It's not about the money it's about the people. People are the capital for this--by engaging people and using human capital is what needs to happen. again, it's challenging to find the right people at the right time for the right projects - people want to see the impact they made
- What if a community created a super pac for itself?
- Keeping students in the community! show them what's here
- tell the story of how great the opportunities are here
- The infrastructure to explore the rest of the state isn't there. "we're feeding students to Boston and not Newport because the infrastructure isn't there"
- access to quality advertising/knowledge
- competing interests--towns with heavy tourism don't see a need to share with others
- more competing, less collaborating
- The new tourism plan...
- promoting diversity and inclusiveness

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Who's briefing the new tourism ad agency? LRI has huge documents of everything great about this state.
- Start our own meet ups on topic-specific groups and invite those from the state house who would immediately benefit.
- help us convey these messages to the legislators
- Take the info here and connect the influencers in this room with one-another to bring this info to the statehouse.
- Tell us what's next?
- Make sure the follow-up is meaningful and is timely.
- Let's create and distribute a "Rhode island bucket list"

# CIVIC/COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOOD + TRANSPORTATION

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Transportation linked directly to success in high school
- bike paths weaving us together
- walkability as key to community
- RIPTA connects in spokes

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- community shoveling, an opportunity not just a challenge
- 'walking school bus'
- impact on education of walking to school

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- impact of economic development on transportation and the impact on the community
- Town Manager in SK, too much power
- State too small to promote good public transport, cars always the easy option

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- redefining the role of transport to being bigger than getting from A-B, health, community, education
- setting priorities
- impact of commuting on quality of life



## CIVIC/ COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOOD + DIVERSITY/CULTURE/HERITAGE

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Disability
- Non-Profits
- Adding a family center in PVD
- Working with United Way in fundraising for the community
- Racial reconciliation, diversity in PVD (growing)
- Connecting the middle ring, continuing the conversation, what is going to happen after today?  
How are we going to create new ideas to improve this state?
- Connections between each other at the table

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Collaborations between non-profits
- Education on disabilities and accessibility
- Sharing resources

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Accessibility issues
  - General kindness of individuals with disabilities
  - Expand exposure to those who may not be previously exposed to individuals with disabilities
- Language as a disability
  - Education as a piece of exposure
  - Specifically bridging the gap between the older generations who only speak a foreign language with younger generation?
- Collaboration between non-profits, bring them together to solve each other's issue
  - Example: Early Head Start programs for younger children and community early education programs
- Bridging the gap between communities that have the opportunity to provide early education and those who do not
- Spreading the wealth and assisting those communities to those areas that need it
- More conscious decisions on where funding goes.
- "Fighting for a piece of the pie"
- Finding, training more professional grant writers for non-profits

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Help Providing Education and knowledge - Adding skills for individuals to be successful

- Resources - Where can we find resources to make a non-profit successful?
  - Answer: use your outer ring, find an organization that is successful and find out how they do it!
  - If you are the person doing it well, be willing to help! That is huge, it doesn't mean that you need to have the answer, but be helpful
- Have coffee or use some time to connect with people
- Ultimately came back to collaboration and starting the conversation.
- Sharing resources including money (not so much just information that was previously discussed)
- Limiting competition in the non-profit sector because it limits the overall success of

## EDUCATION + CIVIC/COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOOD

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Connections: having strong community supports education;
- educational settings help to establish sense of community (football games, big school events);
- diverse cultures to create community, connecting different cultures through education of issues
- Burrillville
  - Tight community creates a strong education
- Multi-cultural (Providence)
- Communities need to build extended activities/education to mitigate violence, etc.

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- after school programs/sports;
- services for children;
- community centers;
- using after school programs and education/support to limit violence and drug use
- education/knowledge of programs and services, communication, town budgets/funding
- After school programs
- Community centers
- Challenge with “less educated” parents
- Sports
- Teach the basics i.e. home economics, planetbeing

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- school/town budgets;
- parent involvement;
- cutting classes and opportunities for “real life” skills (such as home economics)
- Parent involvement
- Financial budgets
- Time constraints on parents who need to be involved
- How to better leverage technological communication tools

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Spreading information through social media/technology rather than paper flyers or brochures;
- having events/places where these conversations can take place

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CRIME/INCARCERATION + LEGAL/JUSTICE

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Criminal Justice reform, law enforcement reform.
- If we got rid of background checks then we would not solve the problem.
- PR work with businesses to allow people that have criminal records to get second chances. The biggest challenge is getting a job.
- Needs to be a system of fairness. Breaking the perception of the system.
- More Federal funding needs to be in place. More programs with the DOC Department of Corrections and local and private businesses need to collaborate.
- The State of Rhode Island is putting a lot of money and resources towards probation. More probation officers are needed if the state is focusing not on incarceration but rather probation.

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest.**

- Inconsistency in the Justice System. All Judges Interpret the law differently
- Working together more from different fields.
- Cost in Health Care and the Education in health care because they have no background.
- Health Care and the Justice system intertwine with drug addictions especially heroine in Rhode Island.

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Yes because there is a growing need for second chances.
- Everyone agreed that they would carry on the conversation in their own personal and private lives.
- Continuing to make impacts and spreading the conversation of LRI outside the classroom and spread leadership and positive change in a grassroots effort.
- What organization focus on the drug problem in the state of Rhode Island to see what the reality is.

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CRIME/INCARCERATION + WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## Roles of table:

- *law enforcement, 15 yrs. of undercover police work, associate with people who you normally would not—hearing their beliefs, their families; law enforcement today is too high-tech. was that you were a HS grad and knew the community. Need higher education now—not a bad thing, but they come from a higher socio-economic group and cannot relate to the people who are committing crime. People fear the unknown. Walk the walk and talk the talk. Talk to the people on the street at their level, occasionally swear. Regardless of community policing, if they can't relate to the people in the neighborhood. Have they ever been hungry, experienced the lights being turned off?*
- *Workforce development: being a small business owner, lots of room for improvement of people who are looking for work. Need more training in particular areas that need jobs. Put ads out on craigslist, the responses/emails—"hey, what's up? Give me a call". Even a person who had been fired from his business—saw lies on resume of job she had that was his business. Strong kitchen help—M-F breakfast and lunch, great passion for food. Chef's dream job. Soft skills are lacking. Not hard skills, can teach. Dependability lacking. Would hire formerly incarcerated, everyone deserves a second chance. Worked with a homeless shelter resident, burned bridge. Will be less willing now.*
- *Workforce development: went to college here and thousands of students leave, need a plan for how to keep talent here.*

## **What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Criminal justice day realized 50% recidivism. Started small group to discuss: survey small business owners regarding jobs, women who are getting ready to get out—future plans.
- Have "day pass" from minimum security at office where she works.
- Need assurances for businesses.

## **In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest.**

- Governor's Workforce Board grant at office to fill some IT and technical positions for 2 years. College students, internships. Thinks 21-25 companies who are now writing plans. All different fields and plans.
- Not about the skill level, but how to teach people to be better employees. Greeting customers, stocking goods. Sense of entitlement.
- Year Up Providence intern working in office. Teaching soft skills, mock interviews, wardrobe and etiquette.
- AFDC job counselor doing too much of the work for the person needing to get the job.
- Had to reduce expectations of what to look for in employees.
- Technology overuse in job postings/applications.

## **What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

## **Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Work of LRI discussion group.

- Secretary of State's checklist of opening of business should be replicated for parolees looking for work.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CRIME/INCARCERATION + AGRICULTURE/AQUACULTURE

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Harvest Kitchen is a program of Farm Fresh that educates children who have been to a juvenile detention center about farming and culinary arts and apprentices them with a local chef. The children make products that are available at different farmer's markets across Rhode Island. Farm Fresh is located in Pawtucket. Harvest Kitchen offers Safe serve certification. JWU students have interned with Harvest Kitchen. Harvest Kitchen has partnered with AS220.
- Delivering Hope has partnered with Amos House to provide organic thanksgiving baskets to families in need annually.
- Amos House has Friendship Cafe, a reentry program that offers employment and training. More Than a Meal is a catering company that employs and trains ex-convicts.
- Blount Seafood funds community projects

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Farm Fresh would like to expand the Veggie Box to include fisherman as local producers for traceable.
- We could use a mentorship style program to connect ex-convicts and the fishing industry.
- Wakefield is exploring job training for unemployed individuals in oyster harvesting.
- Hope and Main offers the facility and training in an incubator kitchen setting, there's potential for community involvement.

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Funding.
- Public stigma against juvenile delinquents presents a challenge. Support for children in programs is not enough from probation officers. This problem extends to the adult convict population.

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- The general consensus is yes, absolutely, the group would like to carry on the conversation. We would need more information about aquaculture as a practice and an industry.



## ARTS/DESIGN + HEALTH/WELLNESS/MEDICINE

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Arts community is proactive in a lot of health and wellness (HIV)
- Maintain self-care/promote health care
- Broad perspective arts and design is a big part of motor developments
- Health prevention can be learned from arts
  - How do we inspire people and design
- Environmental design
- Healthcare system is the least design
- Roof top garden renovating the community to make a healthier community!

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Home base wellness, pro-housing
  - Creating “the village”
- Social services
  - Access to information
- Prepared to carry on
  - Start with one concept that we all agree on and then start doing the action plan
  - Reminding yourself that small changes will add to something big

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Starting at the earlier age to start a healthier lifestyle
- Lack of communication
- How do you communicate to the public on healthier lifestyle
- Getting people to attend event/workshops

## CHILDREN/YOUTH + HEALTH/WELLNESS/MEDICINE

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Executive leader EP prevention control
  - One of the table members (Brittany Dias) grew up in a program and starting a new program
- Incorporating leadership into health/wellness
- Connecting kids with solutions and programs that can help
- Keeping kids activity
- Working with government – appointed by Gina Raimondo
- Working with substance abuse companies i.e. Caratis

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Improving communication between health care, youth programs, etc.
- That would benefit all
- Governor Raimondo has reinstated the children's cabinet
- Very little opportunity for "regular" activity to engage in sport unless they are "selected" or special type of players
- Need a chance to learn how to become better teachers based on how people "learn"
- Work with government programs to enhance
- Keeping sports available after 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- AAV is hurting the schools
- Building boards that can control outcomes

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Too many closed minds, perhaps because it is generation
- People waiting for something big to happen, when we are here
- We need to give people more opportunity to create
- Sometimes our own "RI" culture has stagnated with impairing youth's progress
- We don't spend enough time trying to create change which impacts our youth groups
- We have become defeated – that has slowed us down
- We live in fear of change as a state, afraid to vocalize it

## CHILDREN/YOUTH + ARTS/DESIGN

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Better communication outside of areas
- See more art in the community (on buildings)

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Statewide campaign to highlight art
- Opportunities to partner with other businesses to support programs (outside classrooms; art in communities)

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Funding
- Organizational – volunteers who want to show up and help put up art
- Ocean State Library (OSL)
  - Library consortium
- Need a willingness to change
  - Hard if you can't visualize it

## ARTS/DESIGN + CIVIC/COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOOD

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- The silos have not broken down
  - Arts can open up the communication in safe way

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Arts as social change
- Arts and social services
- Hypnotic sculpture
- “Creating opportunities where people feel comfortable and express dialogue”
- What talent/gifts does the community have to offer; be more creative with how to engage community arts as a means to tap into that
- Training for the permit-ers
- It shouldn’t just be Providence – art needs to spill outside of Providence
- Be creative by policy
- State-level advertising around arts and our creativity
- “Providence” is expanding – new neighborhoods are opening up
  - Opens up new art havens

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- State get out of the way and allow people to be creative
- SBO Obstacles
- State and stagnate state agencies/entrenched culture of “no”
- State needs innovation, asks/wants innovation, but those with the granting/authority power won’t allow for it
- Providence strong art scene, but not as much of a music scene
- Rich culture, people who want to stay; how to tap into that...don’t bring outside experts; ask people who live here already
- Need an organization that is for the sole purpose of helping small businesses navigate the system

# HEALTH/WELLNESS/MEDICINE + HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Harbor's Kitchen
- People will always be connected through food and education
- Perhaps a life insurance company can work with a health group to develop both companies rep and the health of the world
- Education, information, then work with (near) restaurants to develop portion size meals
- Boys and girls club partner with other clubs to teach the children and parents how easy it is
- Boss met with someone about eating healthy. He then had the person speak to the whole office. An employer then reached out to a vendor to get things donated, because now everyone is make ex: smoothies. The company donated the product to the office and then offered a discount for those who want to buy it for their house

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Attached a recipe to food sold at farm markets
- Pricing out how much a meal during August would cost
- How to deliver the foods to those in need
  - Collet left over from restaurants
  - Then collect for \$1 they can purchase a lot of produce
  - Use the funds for gas
- "Pro start" programs that teaches the ins and outs of eating healthy and budgeting
- Through competition students are forced to think outside of the box to cook the food, in hopes of winning the contest
- Teach students how to minimize their waste. Why buy a bag of carrots when you only need 1 carrot

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Teach about waste - statewide effort that has the same message
- Simplicity of meals
- Availability of food at a compatible price
- Menu labeling creates additional work for restaurants who don't want to do it cause of time
- A law is past but there is no facility build that car actually ensure the law is adhered to
- San Miguel school provides 1 meal for the kids to take home with but the meals are not the same or have the right nutrients it's not being 100 effective but it's a start
- People do not know how much excess food there is from the food industry
- Coordinating the schools programs with restaurants that want to donate foods
- Connecting the 3,000 nonprofit organizations to population

## CHILDREN/YOUTH + WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Children progressing into workforce in future
- Children determine the progression of jobs in the future
- If kids aren't educated, they will not be a part of the workforce
- More supplemental programs for children to be introduced into skills that will be needed for future workforce development
- Focus is currently more on STEM rather than humanities

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Experiential learning – hands on, applying things that you're taught
- Guiding students with workforce development
- Basic skills – growing upon them
- Preparing kids for workforce by internships, shadowing, etc.
- Community disconnect

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Focusing on individual strengths vs. generally needed strengths
- No accessible options for low income families
  - Lack of support
- Need preparation for children to go into workforce

## CHILDREN/YOUTH + POVERTY/HUNGER

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Educators, social justice – non-profits
- Vulnerable populations – non-profits
- Helping, serving
- All connected by our work

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Wrap around services at schools
- Summary organizations that could help each other
- Better strategic alignment with community organizations
- Use our resources to help schools in targeted ways
- Leveraging parent engagement
- One or two opportunities we can all rally around – it's too disconnected right now
- Integrating community resources with our schools

**What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Money
- Who is going to lead/make decisions on collaborated work
- Leadership is needed to partner in ways that are collaborative and not competitive
- Long term concentration vs. short term
- What are the priorities of the state – growing business at the expense of social services?
- Need more balanced conversations
- We didn't do enough to lift families up (consistently)
- Chasing the same dollars in small state/market
- Need leadership not agendas

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversion and what you need?**

- Yes, happy to be part of work groups
- See Q3
- How can we refund/drive sector
- How is United Way supporting this
- Partnerships needed
- Smaller non-profits could really win
- Perhaps than evidence to success

## CHILDREN/YOUTH + ARTS/DESIGN

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Children and arts are very connected to the Cranston library through programming and events Library also does a lot of service projects
- URI- implementing programs to work with other schools like shadowing classes
- Environment- Some schools now have classes with students creating gardens

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- More support for the arts in RI
- These fields have great opportunities but many people aren't aware of them
- Statewide campaign would be helpful to bring light to them
- To help increase exposure to arts: more art out in the streets (murals, neighborhood installations, etc.)
- Businesses should get more involved with community efforts Investing in youth and youth intervention

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Funding and implementation
- Obtaining the funding. Can you count on it year after year?
- Organizational issues in terms of bringing art into the communities - time, volunteers, etc.
- Knowledge and know-how to get these types of things done
- To get sustainability, there needs to be consolidation - ex: 39 states, 62 school districts
- Opportunities need to be better publicized
- Need a willingness to change

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Community engagement - in addition to be required to pay taxes, maybe be required to volunteer



## TRANSPORTATION + ARTS/DESIGN

**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Dedicated certain bus stops to different cultures so took photos to represent that
- Communication among the traffic areas and different people
- Issues in transportation that design may be able to help? (question that someone brought up)
- Design in the art community can broaden how we get around and view different cultural spots in the state
- Want to see more of a connection where you can take the train to different areas in the state to see the different places in that area. Ex: Can you put a steamboat in the community so that it can bring tourists into the area to see other communities?
- The connection of getting lost in a new place so they can discover new places; view transportation more in walking and not relying on a GPS; loves going to a place they have never been just to get lost and observe surroundings
- 95 cutoff the cultures that could be seen in Providence and moving it helped, but it still interferes.
- Transportation allows people to come into other areas and see what it has to offer.
- In Arts from spot A to spot B and have never been in B, then the best ideas come from being in spot B.
- Gather together for Art events but sometimes there are no form of transportation for say people who do not have cars to bring them to the events; a disconnect and need more forms of getting people to these places
- People who are in a community like Providence are stuck and do not want to leave their area either because they like the small knit community or because say traveling 20 minutes may take too long in the transportation system like 2 hrs.

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- People moving around for different events relating to music and food like in New Orleans people will travel and have resources to travel, see, and become connected.
- Using transportation systems more so that we do not have to deal with the difficulty of parking and traffic so that they can see different places and try different restaurants.
- Making the city more accessible for walking (talking about Providence) so they can go from one place to another; making more walking friendly
- The Pawtucket area is so artsy and they talk about how it is not being preserved and there is no access where people can go and see what the city has to offer
- Going to see and advertise for art galleries; if you do not have your own car how do you get from Providence to Newport? The time to wait for the transportation system is too long in some areas when others the bus comes more often
- We need something that is smaller than a bus that can transport people because sometime busses are full when other times they are not; having cars maybe to transport people in smaller groups?

- Dedicating trolleys to going to only a certain event on a certain night like a trolley going to Wickenden every Thursday for the art scene. More of a structure and making regular times and days.
- Need to make transportation more dependable so it comes at a certain time and certain date. Again more structure so that people can become more exposed. Gave the example of Gallery Night that takes place once a month on Thursday night where many do not know about it and if they do cannot get there.
- Bus stations being able to access the highway systems and having certain stops on the highway; using the highway like train tracks.
- Why do people use transportation? Bringing in different groups to talk about why people are moving around say for business or for art or where do they want to go? Is transportation inhibiting economic group? Is it there and we just are not using it?
- Making the bike paths friendlier for people with bikes. Also the idea of people taking a bike from a bike system or company so that people can use them to get around. You pay for a bike by swiping your card and then you can drop the bike off at the different transports.

### **What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Economics: people need to be able to pay a certain amount so that it is self-sustaining. What is economically affordable for people? Ex: Talk about going to Boston and ending up in South station for \$20 round trip. Why does no one ride it?
- You can get somewhere, but you can only get so far where then you have to take another form of transportation to get where you want to go; need more steps like once you get off the train where do you go from there?
- Having a consistent time schedule where they worry they will not make it to the final destination on time. May choose to drive instead of the train because not consistent and available with their time; going back to being economic
- not having specific transportation that goes to and from events so say you do not have to worry about driving drunk because you know that line goes just from point A to point B - making the community more aware of certain things amongst the Arts
- Arts are not being sold within this community, but people are looking elsewhere and selling in say New York and Boston why?? People would rather jump on the train and sell in Boston when people should promote that we have galleries in Rhode Island and buyers should come here instead of us having to go there. We have the resources and Art right here in this state.

### **Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- How can they go hand in hand that we haven't tapped into is the question? (question brought up)
- Bus stations putting up billboards and artists having at it; brought up how they like graffiti but it is not shown in the right places. Boxes where artists can show there work in the city. The issue that comes up is making sure not to tag over others tags. This would help showcase artists that have a treasure that no one notices.
- Had an idea of having televisions or screens in bus stops that promote more of what is going on in communities; helps bring graphic design in as well

- Making galleries in public places like bus stops where more people can see things; can make purchases there too Now the idea of question 14:
- Need brainstorming and people in the room who can look at what will work and what can work based on the economy? The people in the room can be anyone who wants to come forward with their ideas and not just geared toward certain groups. It would be great to get the news involved so that it can be broadcasted throughout so that everyone can see what is going on. We need to bring the culture up
- Maybe a website where people throughout the state can put their ideas. Very inclusive so that everyone can input their ideas.
- Imputing people who know the bus routes and train routes so that they know; places where there are bus stops and get artists to draw on the places that promote the work of the business that is there. If you see these it makes the environment more interesting. Get lost in what the artist is trying to do. Identify the spots where we can get artists in. Changes the scenery. Ex: South Kingstown near URI train station. You wait there and there is a warehouse with artwork that shows different perspectives. People get pulled into the artwork and it promotes the business as well.
- RISD students getting involved with the bus stations and interacting with the art at the stations; involving the Art world and younger population as well as experienced artists.

# ARTS/DESIGN + GOVERNMENT + ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Keith from the company "Made From RI" can see how people from art backgrounds can help with a calendar that his company produces. Keith could also use the knowledge that someone has about history to help with his "Made From RI" company.
- Civic pride between everyone and how they want to represent Rhode Island.
- There are multiple people who love photography
- Two people who work for law offices.
- Made From RI could help with the printing of a historical book from RI.
- Made From RI could help people establish a database. Someone from a past table was just talking about needing that.

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- To boost civic pride beautiful Rhode Island uses images.
- Small business growth and development comes from bringing people together who wouldn't necessarily meet.
- The interaction between providence schools is helping them to make progress.
- There needs to be recognition of influences on social media who have developed followers.
- Rhode Island is the only state in the country to have no tax on art. No one knows about this!
- The state should advertise our art assets and how we are the only state to have no tax on art. Let's make this the economic engine that it can be and turn it into something that can be really helpful for our state.

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Keeping our students in the state. We have a lot of students coming from other states to our good schools but we also have a lot of natives leaving.
- There is a lack of diversity of businesses here in RI. We graduate people from all of these colleges but such a small percent stay in RI.
- Maintaining the people that we have here.
- Smart grid - the idea is essentially energy cooling- if you bring 2 windmills onto the grid you can direct the energy to places. If you have ten you can direct it to even more places. You can also direct the energy to where it is most needed not just day to day, but hour by hour. Energy can be dispersed more efficiently without wasting energy. RI is currently dependent on others rather than self-sustaining.
- We need a win as a state. One new win. No tax on art is a big win that needs to be promoted.
- Focusing on what we have that is good. We should tell the world about the good stuff that we do.

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Yes because of all of the connections being made.
- Having RI scholarships to help students go to RI colleges.

## TRAVEL/INTERNATIONAL + SENIOR CITIZENS/ELDERLY

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Collette markets to an older demo because they have the money and the time to travel. Guests are usually people who have saved up their whole lives to take a trip and others who have travelled most of their lives who then continue to do the same in their later years.
- Networking with the aging process - with elder care we work with groups...
- People are living so much longer and mostly independent - and quality of life makes sense to travel. "60 is the new 40"
- Having more time and resource and capitalizing on the opportunity they have to travel. Even providing local trips around RI - to save some money...
- Part of planning now is to be sure that we choose a place to settle in our older years is to travel.
- Older people sharing stories that include travel.

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Sense of community in terms how the nation takes care of their elderly is better than in RI. People have to choose between food and medication.
- Increasingly, seniors are isolated. Love the idea of kid's day care inside senior homes. When you have communities that bring in all ages, it's better for everyone.
- I do think there is a real concern for seniors who are alone. Seeking and providing more of a support network. Our neighborhoods are set up where it seems to encourage isolation. Is it safe to venture outside to meet your neighbor or visit with friends?
- Doesn't seem that elders know how to pull together their resources (inside an assisted living facility, for example). Maybe share an aid. Changing their quality of life due to money is very difficult.
- Who is going to take care of me when I am old... the untapped resources.
- Shared resources for people to stay in their home.
- Success stories: PACE - provide insurance and care - a community within itself.
- As a community, there are very good models ...but they are expensive.
- Untapped resources and opportunities re: travel. RI is a beautiful state. Lot's to see. Restaurants.
- Collette offers "Islands of New England Tours" includes RI.
- Recommendations for tourism in RI: Start with Rhode Islander's. Getting Rhode Islander's to travel even within the state.
- Potential collaboration between elder services and tourism industry. Giving them a reason to get together.
- Breaking up the state for day-trips.
- Offering what is going on in a community to visit - the food, the events. They want to experience it...not just look at it.

- PR and Marketing for Rhode Island events, etc.
- How we get information is disbursed. It's hard to get a sense of what's happening.
- FB newsfeed. Social Media in general...
- Events and things coming TO the elder facilities.
- Partnerships with local events for elders.
- Asking the elderly what THEY want to do.

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Overreaching in the planning. Allowing a program or new idea, a community a trip...whatever - to grow organically may assist with the success and sustainability challenge.
- Isolation - not being familiar with technology that gives us information.
- Things that are new and innovative take time.
- Stereotypes within the caregiving world. Battling the old ideas.
- Rules and regulations for aging in place make it difficult to do exactly that. There are barriers at a state level.
- Taking Assisted living regulations and transferring them to supportive housing - makes no sense.
- Numbers will overwhelm the system so that changes will be forced.
- Challenging the elder population about technology.
- Can't clump a 30 year span of people into one group.

**Would you be prepared to carry on this conversation and/or action around this topic and if so, what would you need to help you do this?**

- Interested in health, elder care and travel...but not just any group.
- I would like to continue talking about Providence but not the location I am in now.
- Organizing a group - neighborhood association - to begin with - in order to move forward with this or any idea.
- How do we start to build networks?

## SENIOR CITIZENS + ANIMAL CARE

**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Important to have a foundation with youth to develop into a future
  - Share ideas and share knowledge
  - Diversity in community
  - Drive future developments and jobs in the future
- Instill values of need to improve in youth which connects to future workforce
  - Progress in community
  - Kids are future
  - Foster to be innovators
  - Raise to know value of workforce
- Workforce wants strengths to be utilized
  - Enhance children's strengths at earlier age
- Kids must be educated and go on to achieve after high school
- Do a better job in schools in and after school to foster skills
  - Marketable skills; technology
  - Hands on, project based learning
  - Have a skill that is needed when graduating
  - What skills will this generation need to be successful
- STEM programs
  - Training tends to focus on STEM and humanity training is lost
  - Less rounded
  - Careers in what they don't want to do

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Experiential learning being put into a position that is hands on and have to do what your taught
  - How do you bring it into the workforce and apply skills
  - Practice and exercise what you learn
  - Better connection to education
  - Natural affinity in school
- Guidance counselor role
  - Guide student with workforce development
  - Public schools look to what private schools are doing
  - Students start to think about working future
- Experience
  - Shadow important figures
  - Add to basic skills with life skills
- Internships
  - Untapped at high school level
- Projects related to what they are learning
- Elementary – volunteer work



- One project can link to many areas
- Opportunities for work experience
- Senior project
  - List of skills and jobs that would be a fit
  - Focused on a question
  - Work with professional
- Can find a job across the country but not close to home
- Lack of connection within college and community
- Lack of communication

### **What do you see as the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Knowing as much as possible is being pushed
  - Not taught how to use it
  - Connect school to real life
  - Experience is lacked in school
  - Focus on money rather strengths
  - Don't allow to grow (fragment)
- Kids in poverty may not have role models at home to groom into workforce citizens
- Trying to create one solution in schools when more than one is needed
- Conversations about community college and low income students is not happening
  - Need advisors to guide
  - Coursework needs to align to employment
  - Thrive when curriculum is connected to something and it is supported
- All people are different and their needs are different and fail because needs are not met
- Most jobs are earned through networking rather than degree
  - Access to jobs is not prevalent
  - Not always posted
  - All about knowing someone

### **Would you be prepared to carry on this conversion and what would you need?**

- Yes! Knowing what will happen after today
  - Structure and an action plan
- Mentors in education
- Finding people who can help the less fortunate
- Bringing issues up at a local level to become aware
- Clear structure
  - Goals, action plan
- Identify who the decision makers are and what the problem is
  - Representative at every level
  - Brings parties together to make decisions
    - Connect administrators and teachers
    - Connect students and teachers
- Classes focused on “nonacademic” material, focused on success in real life (flipping the classroom)
  - Ask students what is wrong

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT + DISABILITY/SPECIAL NEEDS

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**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- Training programs for disabled/special need workers
- Mentoring programs
- Networking opportunities between special needs individuals
- Paul- ACE program
- Paul- Proud of RI's workforce tolerance for those that have special needs
- Bob-Organization called "CAPEabilities" in Cape Cod, MA that can be replicated in RI
- Bob- Financial planning for the future- Special needs trust funds to help special needs individuals maintain a good quality of life that state benefits don't necessarily accommodate
- People from the workforce taking initiative to train as opposed to government
- Expanding intern/internship opportunities

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Financial literacy education & financial health
- Helping people understand available opportunities, and ideas that would be beneficial to them like taking out ROTH IRA accounts, life insurance policies, etc.
- Better equipping them for the real world through focus groups and workshops "Life 101"
- Working with high school students as well as college level students to create internship/externship opportunities
- Helping people understand the consequences of their choices

**What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Tolerance for the nontraditional worker
- Special needs future stability in terms of what happens when their caretaker is no longer around
- Spending behaviors- urging consumers to support the organizations that employ the "nontraditional" worker

## POVERTY/HUNGER + SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

**What kind of connections do you see between/among the interest areas presented at this table?**

- There's a new awareness about how much food is wasted, combined with food insecurity issues (happening in RI too). The two side by side is absurd. We have the resource, have the need, what's in the center is the need for it to be connected. Social enterprises can be that center. The tricky part is the people with the need aren't the "attractive marketplace" for a business, hence the idea for "social" enterprise. Fertile Underground= social enterprise started to try to fill that gap: provides food for 100-200 people; founder hasn't profited financially from it in well over one year (business has been economically disastrous). If there were more people willing to prioritize the social element over the money element, there would be more collaborators and social enterprises i.e. Fertile Underground would be able to do better. Has been connected with Social Enterprise Greenhouse in the past (have been supportive), but as someone with kids, can't make those networking events a lot. Should be a resource out there to help people with the good ideas who are also trying to live (support/grow families, etc.). Some folks don't see people who come from a business background being the ones to start social enterprises. Big disconnect between what she does for work (communications for a dining club) and for filling a need for people/contributing to the greater good of society. Connects with these issues through "extra-curriculars". Difficult to find time to commit to a lot of "extra" things that are fulfilling (job responsibilities, kids, etc.). When people have abundance, comes with responsibility for making sure that you're deserving of it, that you should have that, because you know how to take care of other people. Extra food is in the restaurant business, on the individual level. Is there a source for people to donate their excess food? (small gardeners with too much zucchini, etc.) Food pantries are good resources for this.

**In your experience, what kinds of opportunities exist within these fields that are untapped? What more could be done to enhance the fields of interest?**

- Our biggest opportunity is thinking of ways to leverage "extra capacity". Sounds sensible, but how do you operationalize it? Still remarkably brilliant insight about solving problems. Pooling resources and consolidating need (i.e. Zipcar); there's been a shift towards that. People aren't "buying" things anymore, i.e. Millennials are renting longer, buying less and sharing more. The link between the abundance to the need is getting one to the other: need a vehicle to get one to the other. Rather than having a whole grant-writing staff at social enterprise, etc., figure out how to try and make it a business that works. Not everybody can afford it (i.e. fresh local food from Fertile Underground). Hard to price things at social enterprises; ideally, people who can afford it would pay higher prices to subsidize for those that can't afford it: Ways where people can dynamically support people who are receiving; not done in a traditional charitable way where the line is so sharp. On some level, everybody would support each other if they could. MJ told story about her social enterprise (online, not place-based): free to use as a community member/individual, work places/organizations pay on a sliding scale for subscription --> make it sustainable as a business but still maintain social enterprise component. Option for community members to donate. "Not regulated the boundary --> Inviting people to regulate themselves" Use simple things i.e. signage at place-based social enterprises to educate

consumers, ask for donations, sustain self as a community resource. Engaging more in relationship with people and beginning to educate people. Be engaged as a neighborhood to network! Theme that's come up throughout the day: not really knowing our neighbors (beyond just in passing). Committing to know people on your own street, shared interests, etc. Go back to thinking about a "Neighborhood Day" to connect organizations, businesses, residents, etc. St. Mary's Church reps: For our Church to be more vibrant, we need to get more involved in our NEIGHBORHOOD. Some of the Church lay leaders don't actually live in the neighborhood, but they need to get to know the neighborhood they work in.

### **What do you see at the greatest challenge to success and sustainability?**

- Getting to know the neighborhood. Think it might easy but isn't. Once something's figured out, that doorway is opened and other people can find it.
- Local businesses, churches, etc. WANT to be connected with each other. Churches have strong community, business don't necessarily. How do we connect the two? Where we recognize each other; we're all people in neighborhood, but organizations have silo-ed neighborhoods.
- Challenge: not living in the neighborhood you work in. Want to support both (?) People have to see businesses and organizations in line with what they want to accomplish. Different approach, but same goal. Need to make the connections. How do we do this?
- -Everyone had a welcome desk at their place
- Share your story more. Share the WHY. Don't assume people understand your WHY.
- Utilize other people's (your neighbors, co-workers) strengths to grow social enterprises, ministries, etc.
- Conversations between neighboring organizations/businesses to discuss connecting: look at common things we're doing and goals.
- Incorporating engagement/awareness into everyday
- Reframe how we should share resources, what defines being neighborly, etc.
- Instead of asking for donations, educate/spread awareness first. People need a trigger to think outside their own tunnel vision. Ripple effect of that could be tremendous. Once you reach that awareness, it won't just stop at that. It's easy to forget what you're capable of doing for other people when the human element is removed from it (i.e. being asked to donate \$1 at CVS). Rather than being reminded of powerlessness, remind people of the power of their resources. Reframing the context of the interaction. Feels good to do SOMETHING. Everything that is needed is at hand (i.e. there IS enough food), it's just disorganized system, not accessible. The food is there, the money is there, need to organize system better. Nature knows how to organize, but we've made society so complex, but we haven't figured out how to organize it. Bringing it back to using your strengths! (Roger Williams quote from today's program).

## Community Meetings and Statewide Convening facilitated by the 2015 Lambda II Class

**Katje Afonseca** (North Providence), *Director of Development, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ocean State*  
**Danielle Alpher** (Narragansett), *Cloud Solutions Executive-Global Channel Partnerships, Verizon*  
**Holly Ashton** (Newport), *Industry Relations Coordinator, IYRS School of Technology & Trades*  
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**Jacquelyn Baginski** (Cranston), *Director of Sales & Marketing, Professional Ambulance*  
**Ting Barnard** (Providence), *Philanthropist/Community Activist*  
**Kristin Battisti** (Westerly), *Vice President/Compliance Officer, The Washington Trust Company*  
**Andrew Bramson** (Providence), *Deputy Director, The Providence Plan*  
**Kate Bubrick** (Providence), *Co-Founder/Community Organizer, Rhode Island Is Ready*  
**Wendy Bucci** (South Kingstown), *Chief Operations Officer, University of Rhode Island Foundation*  
**Lisa Carcieri** (Pawtucket), *Senior Manager of Marketing and Advertising, Neighborhood Health Plan of RI*  
**Jennifer Carnevale** (Johnston), *Manager, Regional Human Resources, Fidelity Investments*  
**Kyleen Carpenter** (Providence), *Head of School, Blackstone Academy Charter School*  
**Angela Carr** (Providence), *Partner, Barton Gilman LLP*  
**Maggie Casey** (Warwick), *Manager, Global Philanthropy, Hasbro, Inc.*  
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**Robert Creamer** (Warwick), *Sergeant, Rhode Island State Police*  
**David Curtis** (Warwick), *Director of Marketing and Strategic Initiatives, Bishop Hendricken High School*  
**Lisa Dandeneau** (North Smithfield), *Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, Navigant Credit Union*  
**Stephen Del Sesto** (East Providence), *Partner, Donoghue Barrett & Singal PC*  
**Kelly Donnell** (Barrington), *Dean, School of Education, Roger Williams University*  
**Brendan Ennis** (North Kingstown), *Senior Project Engineer, Gilbane Building Company*  
**Jean Fecteau** (Glocester), *Town Clerk, Town of Glocester*  
**Rosie Fernandez** (Providence), *Community Relations Manager, Cox Communications Northeast*  
**Karen Flynn** (North Kingstown), *Senior Vice President, Consumer Lending Manager, Centreville Savings Bank*  
**David Fogerty** (West Greenwich), *Managing Director, Financial Planning & Strategic Sourcing, Blue Cross Blue Shield RI*  
**Maxford Foster** (Cranston), *Senior Legal Counsel, Rhode Island Department of Transportation*  
**Angelo Garcia** (Central Falls), *Founder/Executive Director, Segue Institute for Learning*  
**Vinny Gebhart** (Warwick), *Developer, Preventure*  
**Micheline Grossi Lombardi** (Scituate), *Retired, Supervisor Probation & Parole, RI Department of Corrections*  
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**Anne Johnson** (Bristol), *Submarine Security Analyst, Naval Undersea Warfare Center*  
**Daniel Justynski** (Barrington), *Director, Real Estate Portfolio, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Northeast Community*  
**Maria Kasparian** (Providence), *Executive Director, Edesia, Inc.*  
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**Glen Martin** (Cumberland), *Consultant, Certified Financial Planner*

**Vincent McAteer, III** (Warwick), *Captain, Cranston Police Department*  
**Bob McCann** (East Greenwich), *Partner, The 02908 Club*  
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**Andrew Moore** (Little Compton), *Fundraising Consultant*  
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**James Nyberg** (Westerly), *Director, LeadingAge RI*  
**Janice Olsen** (Warwick), *Director, Product Development & Market Research, AAA Southern New England*  
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**John Russell** (Newport), *Counsel, Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C.*  
**Joseph Santos** (North Kingstown), *Commander/Professor, U.S. Navy/U.S. Naval War College*  
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**Raymond Two Hawks Watson** (Providence), *Executive Director, Mount Hope Neighborhood Association*  
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**Dean Weinberg** (Providence), *Senior Manager, Carl Weinberg & Co., LLP*  
**Eileen Wisnewski** (Cranston), *Senior Associate Director, Career Education & Professional Development, Providence College*  
**Nicole Yonkman** (Providence), *Senior Co-Minister, Beneficent Congregational Church, United Church of Christ*

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead*





# LEADERSHIP

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## R H O D E I S L A N D

### **Our Vision**

Leadership Rhode Island creates and supports a legacy of leaders for the state.

### **Our Mission**

The mission of Leadership Rhode Island is to provide leaders and emerging leaders with knowledge and access to resources which will enable them to positively affect their communities.

### **Leadership Rhode Island Board of Governors**

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Secretary, Shanna Marzilli (LRI '08), Plan International USA  
Member-At-Large, Nicole Benjamin (LRI '13), Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C.  
Member-At-Large, Steve Duvel (LRI '12), Gilbane Building Company

#### **Members:**

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Baldev Seekri, Consultant and Author of "Organizational Turnarounds with a Human Touch"

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Jane Nugent, (LRI '95) – Project Advisor  
Matt Coupe (CLRI '12) – Alumni & Community Engagement Liaison  
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