

RISCA Fall Conference Breakout Sessions Overview

Keynote: Learning Outside the Lines (Jonathan Mooney)

In his keynote presentation, Jonathan will explore three ideas that changed his life and that all counselors and educators can adopt to support vulnerable and at risk learners. He will provide concrete strategies to help counselors and teachers build positive learning identities with their students who like himself, believe they are “stupid, crazy, and lazy”; he will outline a strengths based approach that gives concrete ideas on how to scale students strengths and build contextualized learning pathways; and he explores the power of student-counselor-teacher connections and relationships as the foundation of transformative learning environments. And through all of this, Jonathan will celebrate counselors/educators as change agents and education as a powerful tool for personal and social transformation.

CTE in The 21st Century (Lori Ferguson)

Today’s career and technical education is cutting edge with rigorous coursework and relevant application of skills. Learn what it means to be college and career ready. Understand how your students can benefit from a career and technical education at any age and understand how to guide your students to post secondary success whether college or career.

“Youth Suicide Prevention and Substance Abuse Prevention: It’s Everyone’s Business” (Leigh Reposa & Colleen Judge)

How do you know if a student is using or abusing substances or comes from a substance abusing family? How do you know if a student is feeling depressed or hopeless and might be suicidal? We will talk about not only risk and protective factors but also what resources are in place to support students and get them access to help. This interactive learning session will teach participants how to recognize warning signs for both substance use and suicidality and we will use examples of real life intervention strategies throughout the training. There is help. There is hope.

Professional Development and how to get it for FREE! (Dr. Erin Earle, Christina Berardi, Christina Cerenzia)

More often than not, getting approval for and participating in a professional development can be a hassle. Leading many professionals to the question, why bother? Come discuss the benefits of professional development to both you, your students, and your institution/organization, how to get the most out of these opportunities, and creative ways to get the experiences and training you need and want. In this session we'll also share available resources and opportunities, how to lobby for time out of the office and/or funding (including email templates) plus ways to participate for free.

Targeting Equity in Computing Education (Kathi Fisler & Andrea Russo)

Students that are enrolled in Computer Science courses often fail to reflect regional racial and gender demographics. Nationally, statistics reveal that females and under-represented minorities are not enrolling in computer science courses and/or have lower retention rates. We will review these statistics and discuss various recommended best practices for targeting equity in computing education. The presentation will provide pointers to freely available materials and discusses equity strategies being used by some programs (such as TEALS and Bootstrap) that are participating in the state's CS4RI effort.

Managing self-injury in a school setting (Jennifer Kittler)

We will provide information about evaluating and managing self-injury among adolescents in school settings, as well as information about referral options and appropriate resources in the community.

Digital logic circuit design using programmable logic (Kathryn Parchesco and Wai Yung)

This hands on workshop presents the process of building a decay counter using programmable logic instead of discrete chips. The circuit design will be completed in simulation software Altera Quartus II. Then the circuit will be downloaded to the programmable logic device Altera UP2. The workshop will explain and describe the process step by step.

RI CollegeBound Saver Fund (Melissa Bailey)

Building a successful college-going culture begins with early education and planning. You can help by introducing parents to savings and financial aid concepts while they still have time to plan. This session will provide an entry-level glimpse at financial aid concepts, various savings options, including RI CollegeBound Saver Program. A representative from Ascensus College Savings, the Program Manager for RI's 529 will share what other districts are doing and provide resources you can incorporate to engage parents as they plan for college. It's a great addition to any PTA, College Planning or Financial Aid Night! Join today's breakout session or learn more by visiting www.ri529savings.com

Career & College Exploration and Awareness in Elementary and Middle School: From Nice to Necessary (Robert Bardwell)

The First Lady has challenged us to Reach Higher to help students seek training beyond graduation. This session will focus on college and career exploration and awareness activities for Prek-8 school counselors. You will learn about research that supports early interventions and successful programs that provide students the skills to Reach Higher.

Got Disengagement? Check and Connect..So simple, yet so powerful (Nicole Bucka)

Check and Connect is an engagement intervention Rhode Island Multi Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) trains at the middle/high school level and we bring it to RISCA today. It is evidence based for students who show Early Warning indicators of course failures, absences, and behavior issues. It fosters positive relationships between teachers and students while teaching goal setting, problem solving, self-advocacy and more. Check and Connect can be implemented/organized by anyone well trained in your building-teachers, counselors, administrators, clerical staff, custodians, volunteers, even older students mentoring younger and is flexibly scheduled.

Navigating the Talent Development Process (Rachel Jordan and Coral Maack)

The session will explain what the Talent Development program at the URI is and answer some key questions that many secondary counselors may have such as: What makes a viable candidate? What is the application process? What do we look for when reading Talent Development applications? How do we support students once they arrive to campus?

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Maureen Philbin)

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children(CSEC) is a growing issue in Rhode Island and throughout the United States. This training will cover definitions, general information and CSEC statistics, signs someone might be involved, treatment for victims and at-risk-youth, and an overview of the new statewide response

Mt. Hope High School's Attendance and Tardy Campaign (Dr. Deborah DiBiase, Dr. Rosemary Burns, Manuel Vierra)

Like many high schools, Mt. Hope High School has struggled with student absenteeism and tardiness. In this workshop, learn how the MHHS community improved tardiness rates by more than 13% in two years and continues to improve attendance rates. Strategies will be shared as well as lessons learned. You will leave with concrete ideas that can be brought back to your school and implemented immediately with little to no cost!

Inventing Heron (Lindsay Kuhn)

Inventing Heron is a collection of narratives about the workplace; originally created to help students connect materials they learn in the classroom to the real world, and to nurture career aspirations. Over 500 people have shared their stories about what they call work on the site, ranging from radio reporters to mushroom farmers to material scientists.

SkillsUSA Rhode Island: Helping Your Students To Be Both College & Career Ready (Joshua Klemp & Sarah Testoni)

Join us for an introduction to the state's largest career and technical student organization and learn how to start a chapter at your school. SkillsUSA RI has an impact on the lives of our states

future workforce through the development of personal, workplace and technical skills that our grounded in academics. Our curriculum, leadership development programming and competitive events are created by our partners from business, industry and education and designed for students in the middle, secondary and post-secondary levels.

**Advancing Health Career Education in Rhode Island
(Jody Jencks, Jeremy Lopes, Rebecca Bouley)**

This workshop addresses the gap between formal schooling and the entry into the workforce of a Health Career Field. The presenters will cite reasons for the gap in skills that current RI entry-level Health Care employees display and offer suggestions to bridge the gap between school and career. School counselors will take away knowledge and tools for decreasing the lack of skills current students present in the ever-changing Health Career industry.

"It's Not Just About the Bathroom: Supporting LGBTQ and Gender Non-Conforming Students" (Cindy Lancaster)

This session will provide information about strategies for creating a safer, more welcoming school climate for our K-12 LGBTQ population, with special emphasis on supporting gender non-conforming students. Participants will have a better understanding of terminology, data, and research pertaining to this vulnerable population. Counselors will gain insight into how to implement best practices and walk away with practical tools and resources to support and educate students, families, teachers, and administrators through policy change and inclusive practices.

**Cutting Edge Interventions and Assessments for Trauma Impacted Youth
(Amy Battersby)**

This training will examine current assessments, interventions and treatments for trauma impacted youth. We will look at the evidence that supports these treatments, the hope for the children and their families and the trainings and available programs in Rhode Island for clinicians to access.

**Disruptive Career Education: How Do We Measure Career Success
(Janice M. Tkaczyk, Scott Yagnesak)**

How many careers require four years of post-secondary education? Does "higher" education mean "hire" education? What do your students really know about career pathways? Are they career ready? See current college completion, job outlook/placement and wages data. Learn creative ways to develop business/industry partnerships to build that all-important academic-career relevance in the classroom. Conclude with strategies discussion.