

2020 – 2021 PrepareRI Ambassadors

Project	Scope	Ambassador	Bio
Adult Education	<i>Serve as a liaison between the RIDE-funded adult education network and PrepareRI to share promising practices and promote alignment in initiatives related to work readiness, work-based learning, certifications, and postsecondary readiness, among others.</i>	Tyla Pimentel	Tyla serves as the Vice President of Programs at the Genesis Center, possessing over a decade of experience in Adult Education and workforce development. Through her current and past positions, Tyla has been immersed in various areas of Adult Education including literacy, GED and high school completion, workforce training, and English for speakers of other languages. Over the years, Tyla has gained knowledge and perspective of the educational and support needs of adults in RI, such as RI's existing resources for adult learners and how adult education resources interconnect with other systems of education, workforce development, and public supports. Tyla hopes to utilize her passion and expertise to support Adult Education at the state-level as a PrepareRI Ambassador.
All Course Network	<i>Support RIDE with the expansion and implementation of the All Course Network. This ambassador will provide project managerial support for overseeing all ACN components, and will provide additional support with Data analysis, lottery development, creating and updating collateral such as website, provider and school member materials, and other tasks on an as needed basis.</i>	Erin Gilliatt	Erin Gilliatt serves as the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of East Providence and an Administrative Assistant for the Rhode Island Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs. With over 20 years' worth of experience with the Boys and Girls clubs, she has supported many students with mentorship to ensure that they have a plan for their future. Erin recognizes the many barriers that students face in attending four-year colleges and reaching their full potentials - instead seeing many of them seek lower-wage jobs with no clear path forward. Erin believes that the ACN offers a comprehensive framework and solution to break this problematic cycle if executed properly with special attention to accessibility and data analysis. Erin's experiences as a leader, mentor, administrator, mom, and self-described "data geek" has driven her interest in becoming a PrepareRI ACN Ambassador, so she can support its accessibility, evaluation, and improvement so that it can be effective for all students.
Career & Technical Education	<i>Support the relationships between the CTE Board and career and technical education programs operating in RI schools. This Ambassador will provide CTE Advisory Board with support and guidance on how to move work forward to the CTE Board of</i>	Lynne Bedard	Lynne is the career coordinator for Ponaganset High school, and a CTE Teacher Certification professor for Roger Williams University. Lynne has served as a PrepareRI Ambassador supporting Career & Technical Education for the past three academic terms, assisting the CTE Board of Trustees with creating an Advisory Board Protocols and Procedures Toolkit, as well as working with the Advisory board to schedule meetings, set agenda, and support the review process for

	<i>Trustees. This Ambassador must have the ability to manage a variety of stakeholders and possess and understanding of the relationship between education and Rhode Island employer's staffing needs.</i>		each cluster's advisory standards. Lynne hopes to utilize her knowledge, respectability in the CTE field, passion, and results-oriented/self-directed nature to continue to support CTE as a PrepareRI Ambassador and build upon the work that she has already begun.
PrepareRI Field Support	<i>Design and implement field support strategies for the PrepareRI initiative. This includes planning and attending networking events and curating this audience to generate best practices and other innovative ideas for education across the state. Spread awareness of PrepareRI opportunities at schools and other community events.</i>	Soljane Martinez	Soljane serves as an Education Coordinator for the Annenberg Institute for School reform at Brown University. Recently completing her doctoral degree in educational leadership, Soljane feels that she possesses the skills necessary to help lead the design and implementation of field support strategies for the PrepareRI initiative. Soljane previously served as a PrepareRI Ambassador, creating a deliverable that was necessary and useful for RI Newcomer families. Soljane has recently participated in RIDE's Educators of Color video and hopes to serve as an advocate and voice for those who are often left out of conversations and would love to take this opportunity to serve as a spokesperson for PrepareRI!
PrepareRI Ambassador Manager	<i>This Ambassador will support the PrepareRI project manager by organizing and monitoring the logistics of the entire Ambassador program, collecting and coordinating Ambassadors' final deliverables, and strategically disseminating these resources to relevant audiences. The Ambassador Manager will ensure that Ambassadors receive significant policy and leadership experience during their term.</i>	Amanda Blazka	Amanda has served as the College and Career Strategy intern with the OCCR for the past 6 months. In her role, she has exclusively supported the execution of PrepareRI and the various programs that comprise it. She has effectively managed the final reporting and financial payout for over 120 educational providers for the summer learning initiative, supported the execution of the first-ever virtual PrepareRI Summit, and prepared all of the guiding materials needed for this year's PrepareRI Ambassador program. Amanda is excited to continue her work with this initiative by supporting the implementation and management of the PrepareRI Ambassador Program.
School Counseling: Individual Learning Plan (ILP)	<i>Support the development of the Student/Parent Ambassador program and the ILP implementation. Create lessons, templates and structure of the program to be implemented. Tools will be created to assist with a train-the-trainer model, to support trainers</i>	Jael Lopes	Jael currently serves as the Director of Strategic Community Partnerships at PPSD and has prior experience as a Programming Services Officer for the RI Department of Human Resources. Jael's expertise in leadership, entrepreneurship, and education have given her a solid foundation to support young people and to serve as an advocate for PrepareRI

	<i>with implementing the ILP in their schools.</i>		
School Counseling: Social Emotional Learning (SEL)	<i>Work on creating lessons connected to the RI School Counseling Competencies for Students and support the Rethink Counselors with these tools as they work on designing their own programs.</i>	Stacy Haines-Mayne	Stacy currently serves as a Student Support Specialist for the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District. Stacy has served as a PrepareRI Ambassador for the past 3 years and in her most recent role, she created the RI School Counseling Competencies for Students. Prior to the creation of the Ambassador program, Stacy has used her position (prior President, RISCA and School Counselor of the Year) to advocate for the role of school counselors and to support the grant application of PrepareRI. Stacey hopes to serve as a PrepareRI Ambassador for this academic term to expand her prior work as Ambassador and feels that her expertise will enable her to connect with school counselors across the state and make an impact in this field.
Work-Based Learning	<i>Work with a variety of stakeholders to create and implement a toolkit for schools on how to create high-quality work-based learning programs. This includes conducting a needs assessment, obtaining user input/feedback, testing the new toolkit and making continuous improvements. This Ambassador will be part of a larger working group focused on aligning work-based learning efforts across the state, along with industry partners and a statewide intermediary.</i>	Shannon Donovan	Shannon serves as the Career and Technical Education Coordinator and the STEAM Coordinator for the Scituate School District. On a weekly basis, Shannon engages with community and industry partners to enhance the Scituate SD programs and gain access to WBL opportunities for their students. There are a myriad of resources that Shannon has explored for her own school and would love to assist other districts in acquiring such as Nepris (for ILP and career exploration development), the role of CTSOs in supporting WBL opportunities, and the ways that ESRI's ArcGIS Online, Monday.com, and Tallo can provide resources to all high school students in the state and showcase their accomplishments for future scholarships and internships.
XQ+RI: Accountability	<i>Improve measures and accountability systems for redesigned XQ schools to ensure that schools are maintaining rigor, promoting equitability, and supporting student success. This Ambassador will be part of a larger working group focused on the Early-Warning System (EWS) that will help administrators and teachers identify 6th-12th grade students who are at</i>	Elizabeth Dwyer Kelly	Elizabeth is the Director of Teaching and Learning and designated District Teacher of the Year 2018 for RINI Middle College Charter High School. Elizabeth's experiences as an educator, director, and PrepareRI Ambassador makes her an effective representative for the XQ+RI Accountability project. A sound accountability system is central to her role at RINI and in her position, she is accountable for school-specific postsecondary attainment goals as well as a state report card metrics. Elizabeth recognizes that accountability systems extend far beyond the outcomes at the end of the academic year and that they must begin and end with the student. She feels that a

	<i>risk of not graduating from high school, and will aid in the development of systems and structures that will catch students before they fall behind.</i>		successful accountability system will encompass the systems and structures that provide equitable and rigorous standards-aligned (or industry-aligned) instruction to all students and must include substantial progress monitoring tools that allows school facilitators to identify students that are falling behind. Elizabeth is results-oriented and knowledgeable about school accountability systems and hopes to further this work by continuing as a PrepareRI Ambassador.
XQ+RI: College & Career Readiness	<i>Support RIDE in aligning XQ schools to standards and rigor that will promote high school students' college and career readiness. This Ambassador will ensure that XQ schools are focused and promoting relevant course requirements and that students have equitable access to rigorous academic and experiential opportunities.</i>	Liz Giordano	Liz serves as the Program Manager for the Division of Workforce Partnership at CCRI. Liz brings 10 years of career education experience as a founding member of KIPP NYC College Prep where she worked as a career counselor for high school students from low-income communities and helped thousands of students secure experiential learning and competitive work opportunities. AT CCRI, Liz oversees two large grants to create a Career Innovation Lab that connects students' academic pathways with career opportunities. Liz believes that her direct experience leading career development and her prior development of a career education toolkit for the NYC DOE will help her serve as a strong leader and advocate for student pathways beyond high school.
XQ+RI: College & Career Readiness		Shana Bloom	Shana is currently self-employed by Blooms2Prosper - a holistic Career Coaching business for high school and college students. Previously, Shana served as a Business Coach for PrepareRI over the Summer of 2020 and as the Career Coordinator for the Bristol-Warren School district. Shana is passionate about her prior involvement with PrepareRI and the students that have been placed in meaningful pathways to success. As a career coach, Shana hopes to use her expertise to serve as a spokesperson for PrepareRI and to have the platform to reach many more youth and give them the opportunity to "realize their dream" through hard work, dedication, and exposure to opportunities that they may have never had.
XQ+RI: Course Redesign	<i>Redesign interdisciplinary high-failure rate courses to best-support student success. This Ambassador will work closely with RIDE and XQ schools to improve and reimagine course-taking patterns, understand the drawbacks of the current course-taking system, and provide a roadmap for a new and</i>	Meredith Bizragane	Meredith serves as a Chemistry teacher for Pilgrim High School and is passionate about discussing STEM careers, opportunities, and challenges with her students. As a teacher, Meredith has had the opportunity to spend time mentoring students with college choices, majors of study, and postsecondary expectations, and brings a group of students to URI each year to participate in a Chemistry competition and connect with the college's professors and labs. Meredith is highly invested in supporting her students as they make

	<i>improved structure of the course(s) for the future.</i>		their postsecondary education and career decisions and hopes to become a PrepareRI Ambassador so that she can support RIDE's vision for 21st Century Education to ensure that every student is provided with a learning environment which is supportive, challenging, and relevant to their world.
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