The College community gathered for an afternoon of updates, idea exchanges and discussion of challenges and goals to help firmly establish its footprint to meet the needs of today’s students to become educators and leaders in a global economy. Dean Anthony Rolle led off the meeting with introductions to new faculty and staff, and an overview of sociopolitical contexts in Kingston and Providence, followed by a re-cap of achievements, challenges, and opportunities. Other points of discussion included:

- Reflections of the past year
- New and re-visioned degree programs
- Improved internal and external communications mechanisms
- Global Initiatives
- Innovative technology in the classroom

Other presentations included:

- **Amanda Zelazo** – Technology Manager – a view of the new Innovative Technology Classroom in Providence.
- **Deborah Mathews** – Director of the Office of Strategic Initiatives - how the Office serves its constituents.
- **Karen Markin** – Director of Research Development – grant funding
- **Anne Seitsinger** – Associate Dean of Faculty and Research -Scholarly Activity Report 2016-18
- **Tammy Vargas Warner** – Assistant Dean – Academic and Student Affairs- function of the new office and School of Professional and Continuing Studies.
- **Jane Fusco** – Marketing, Media and Communications Manager – Marketing is a means to an end.
The social responsibilities of storytelling in the digital age was the theme of the Summer Institute in Digital Literacy that took place July 15-20 at the Feinstein Providence Campus. About 90 educators, librarians, researchers, media professionals and school leaders participated in the professional development program designed to help educators advance student literacy and learning by using digital texts, tools and technologies, along with innovative instructional strategies to motivate and engage students and develop their critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication skills.

Len Cabral, the Providence-based African-American storyteller and winner of the Rhode Island Pell Award for Excellence in the Arts, and his daughter, Nuala Cabral, Philadelphia-based media literacy educator and activist gave the keynote address, “Before There Were Screens, There Were Stories,” which told of the relevance, limitations and power of storytelling in a fast-evolving media landscape where screens are ubiquitous, attention spans are short, multi-tasking is the norm, and human connection is at our fingertips. Workshop faculty for the program included 16 distinguished educators from around the country and around the world. Renee Hobbs, professor and director of the Media Education Lab at URI, and Julie Coiro, associate professor of education and a leading expert on online reading comprehension, co-directed the Summer Institute, which is part of the URI Graduate Certificate Program in Digital Literacy.

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What to Expect from Standards 2017

Diane Kern, associate professor of education, and co-chair of the International Literacy Association’s Standards Revision Committee 2017, discussed the implications of the new standards for reading and literacy professionals, in the article, WHAT TO EXPECT FROM STANDARDS 2017 - Bringing teacher preparation programs into the 21st century, in the May/June issue of Literacy Today.
**Future Immersion Teacher (FIT) Fellowship**

URI’s School of Education has partnered with the FIT (Future Immersion Teacher) Fellowship, to provide scholarships for aspiring French dual language and immersion teachers to pursue specialized graduate degrees and certificate programs. The initiative is intended to address a critical teacher shortage in French dual language programs across the country. Students admitted to URI’s Master’s in TESOL/Bilingual and Dual Language Immersion program with a focus on French, may be eligible for a $10,000 Fellowship to support graduate work. Students admitted to the online certification program in TESOL/Bilingual aand Dual Language Immersion with a focus on French may be eligible for a $5,000 Fellowship. Application deadline is August 20, 2018. For more information, contact Amy Correia at correia@uri.edu in the School of Education.

**Ed Prep Design Challenge.**

The Ed Prep Design Challenge is to support interested prep programs in identifying a problem of practice, working through the design process in partnership with RIDE and trained current K-12 educators, and then pitching ideas for final funding. Two $15,000 grants will be awarded to the winning schools/ideas. to identify ways that programs can pilot new ideas, test them out over a semester, and then determine whether they’re worth scaling up. The only parameter for the projects is that they will support innovation in our educator preparation programs to better prepare our incoming educators for the twenty-first century classroom. Pilots can run their course through SY18-19.

**Excellence Award**

Julie Coiro, associate professor of reading education, received the 2018 Excellence in Assessment Reporting for Graduate Programs from URI’s Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee.

**Impact Academy Fellow**

Dean R. Anthony Rolle was named an Impact Academy Fellow, joining a cohort of leaders chosen for their commitment to improving educator preparation. Dean Rolle is one of 13 fellows announced as part of the Fellowship’s third cohort since its launch in summer 2016. Each cohort of Impact Academy fellows is limited to no more than 20 leaders, each of whom completed a rigorous nomination and application process. Through its year-long Impact Academy fellowship, Deans for Impact helps prepare transformative leaders to set a bold vision for forward-thinking, motivate faculty, and support individual and organizational learning, to ensure quality educator preparation.

**Balomeos Lecturer**

Dr. Cornelis (Kees) deGroot, professor of secondary education, has been selected as the 2018 Balomenos Lecturer for the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England (ATMNE). Conference. The conference is being hosted by the Rhode Island Mathematics Teachers Association (RIMTE) and will be held in December at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, R.I. The Balomenos Lecture is designed to challenge educators to think more deeply about ways to engage teacher preparation students in the teaching and learning of mathematics. Dr. de Groot’s presentation will focus on a positive approach to improving the teaching mathematics and ways to engage K-12 educators in the development of beginning teachers.