

Rhode Island Network for Excellence in Science and Technology (RI-NEST)

An Initiative of RI NSF EPSCoR

2026 Fall Meeting*

Friday, October 30, 2026, 8am to 4:45pm

Rhode Island School of Design

8-8:45am: **Breakfast + Networking**

8:45-9:00am: **Welcome remarks, land acknowledgement, overview of partnerships and research initiatives at RISD**

Elin Torell, Project Director, RI-NEST

Silvermoon LaRose (Narragansett Niantic), Assistant Director, Tomaquag Museum

Touba Ghadessi, Provost, RISD

9:00-9:15am: **Impact of EPSCoR, view from the U.S. Congress**

Jack Reed, U.S. Senator for Rhode Island

9:15-9:30am: **Notes from the network: RI-NEST and its future**

9:30-10:15am: **Announcement of RI-NEST seed grant awardees and program highlights**

10:15-10:30am: **The importance of research in Rhode Island**

Sheldon Whitehouse, U.S. Senator for Rhode Island

10:30-10:45am: **Presenting Rhode Island's new Science and Technology Plan**

10:45-11:00am: **EPIIC and industry collaboration at RISD**

Katherine Cooper, Director, Academic and Creative Partnerships, RISD

11:00am-12pm: **Building RI's collaborative research ecosystem.**

A moderated discussion from investigators within the EPSCoR ecosystem on the barriers and bridges to building collaborative research in Rhode Island.

Elin Torell, Project Director, RI-NEST

Scott Schnur, Partnerships and Tribal Engagement Specialist, RI-NEST

Jennifer Bissonnette, Co-Principal Investigator, RI-NEST, Houghton P. Metcalf, Jr. (HD 96)
Director, Edna W. Lawrence Nature Lab

Katherine Cooper, Director, Academic and Creative Partnerships, RISD

Anabela Resende da Maia, Co-Principal Investigator, RI-NEST, Professor of Biology, Rhode Island College,

Daniel Roxbury, Principal Investigator, SIMCoast, Professor of Chemical, Biomolecular, and Materials Engineering, University of Rhode Island



Peter Wong, Director, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Roger Williams University

12-1pm: Lunch & Networking

1-2pm: EPSCoR in Rhode Island, an interactive symposium

A showcase of research projects and partners from across the Rhode Island NSF EPSCoR ecosystem in Rhode Island. Featuring interactive science activities, tabling from community partners, and raffle tickets to visit the RISD Museum.

2-4:15pm: Behind the Scenes! Touring Research @RISD

Visits to RISD's Hyundai Motor Group (HMG) Regeneration Studio, Edna W. Lawrence Nature Lab, and Fleet Library's Materials Collection.

4:15-4:45pm: Closing remarks and raffle drawing

**Activities and times subject to change*

