

**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**

8:45-9:15am: **Welcome remarks, Overview of partnerships and research initiatives at RISD**

*Elin Torell*, Project Director, RI-NEST, *Touba Gbadessi*, Provost, and *Katherine Cooper*,  
Director, Academic and Creative Partnerships, Rhode Island School of Design

9:15-9:30am: **Reflecting on RI-NEST and its future** (Torell)

9:30-10am: **Announcement of seed-grant awardees and program highlights** (Torell & RI-NEST staff)

10-10:30am: **Taking action on science and technology in Rhode Island**

*Lisa Carnevale*, Vice President of Innovation Initiatives, RI Commerce, Executive Director, RI Science and Technology Advisory Council (RI STAC)

10:30-11:30am: **Building RI's collaborative research ecosystem**, (Panelists TBD).

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

11:30-12pm: **Responding to RI's research needs through an EPSCoR office**

An interactive brainstorming session on how to strengthen Rhode Island's research ecosystem and create more responsive and needs-oriented EPSCoR office for the state.

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 Regeneration Studio Lab, Edna W. Lawrence Nature Lab, and the Fleet Library Advanced Material Collections.

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

*\*Activities and times subject to change*

