

Annual Report 2019-20



THE SMILE PROGRAM

Science & Math Investigative Learning Experiences

The SMILE Program seeks to improve the educational outcomes of underrepresented and underserved students by giving them confidence in their academics and life skills in order to pursue higher education and career opportunities of their choice. Our work supports the University of Rhode Island’s initiatives to achieve the enrollment of a talented and diverse community of students, as well as increase first-year retention of freshmen by focusing on college preparedness of underserved pre-college students who are in grades 4 – 12. With a dedicated team of SMILE staff members, club teachers/leaders, school administrators, college faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and community members, The SMILE Program experienced another successful year.



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends and Supporters of The SMILE Program,

It began as a wonderful 26th year of SMILE. On March 13, 2020 schools were closed in Rhode Island. With great sadness, SMILE had to abruptly cancel the SMILE URI Middle School Engineering Challenge weekend, the SMILE URI High School Engineering Challenge weekend, the 5th grade Elementary Outdoor Science Adventure weekend at URI's W. Alton Jones Environmental campus, and the 4th grade SMILE URI Ecology day. All our teachers, students and staff were disappointed but realized that the severity and contagiousness of the Covid-19 disease left us with no other health safety option.

We had 476 Rhode Island students participating in the program this year at the elementary, middle and high school levels from seven school districts, with students from Central Falls, Newport, Providence, South Kingstown, Westerly, West Warwick, and Woonsocket. Parents and administrators enjoyed the fall district Family Science Nights led by students and organized by teachers. The students were the teachers of activities, and parents, impressed with their children's learning, became more committed to their student's aiming for higher education. It has been a most rewarding year, culminating in the graduation of 19 SMILE high school seniors, most of whom are planning to attend college this fall. Three of those seniors were each awarded a \$500 SMILE college scholarship, inspired by Saul Nulman, a SMILE supporter, who said "Dreams, determination, and discipline will make you succeed." Their accomplishments make us so proud. Not every student remains in SMILE through his or her senior year. There are 418 students who have been in SMILE for one or more years who will graduate this year whose college attendance we will track.

SMILE staff are currently developing dual curricula, both virtual and in school, for the Fall that will enable SMILE clubs to meet and have educational meaningful weekly after school activities in a safe environment. The SMILE Program continues to be Rhode Island's only STEM pipeline for helping diverse students develop their identity and competence as scientists in preparation for college. SMILE alumni students select STEM majors at the University of Rhode Island at a 70% rate, well above the national average of 14%.

Your support and efforts on behalf of all our SMILE students has an incredible positive effect. We appreciate and thank all of you for promoting The SMILE Program and look forward to our 27th year bringing STEM activities to Rhode Island's deserving and enthusiastic children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol English". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

OUR REACH

SCHOOLS

The SMILE Program served 476 students and 23 schools across Rhode Island.

CENTRAL FALLS

Ella Risk Elementary School
Calcutt Middle School
Central Falls High School

WESTERLY

Springbrook Elementary School
Westerly Middle School
Westerly High School

NEWPORT

Claiborne Pell Elementary School
Thompson Middle School
Rogers High School

WEST WARWICK

Horgan Elementary School
Deering Middle School
West Warwick High School

PROVIDENCE

Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School

WOONSOCKET

Harris Elementary School
Citizens Elementary School
Coleman Elementary School
Woonsocket Middle School at Hamlet
Woonsocket Middle School at Villa Nova
Woonsocket High School

SOUTH KINGSTOWN

West Kingston Elementary
Curtis Corner Middle School
South Kingstown High School

2019-20 PARTICIPANTS AND CONTINUING STUDENTS

STUDENTS WITH 2 OR MORE YEARS IN THE PROGRAM		
	Students/Grade	2 or More Years
Elementary	195 (4-5 th)	53
Middle	191 (6-8 th)	126
High	90 (9-12 th)	64

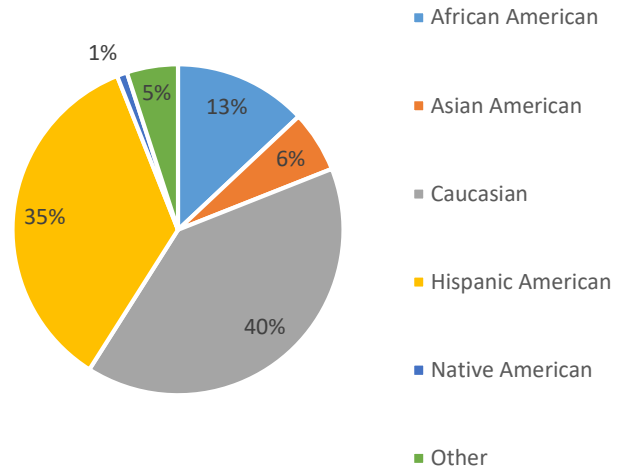
RETURNING STUDENTS 2019-20		
Total Returning Students	243	51%
Total Students in 2018-19	476	

PARTICIPANTS

STUDENTS BY ETHNICITY

African American	74	13%
Asian American	30	6%
Caucasian	224	40%
Hispanic American	196	35%
Native American	5	1%
Other	24	5%

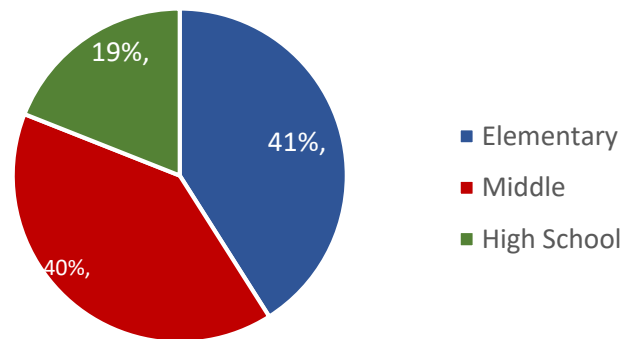
Students By Ethnicity



STUDENTS BY GRADE LEVEL

	Students	Percentage
Elementary School	195	41%
Middle School	191	40%
High School	90	19%

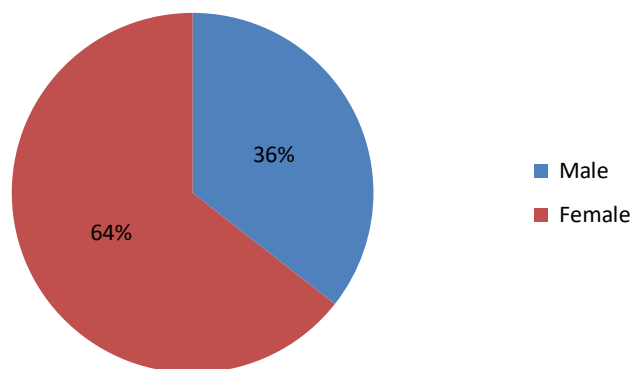
Students By Grade Level



STUDENTS BY GENDER

	Percentage
Female	64%
Male	36%

Students By Gender

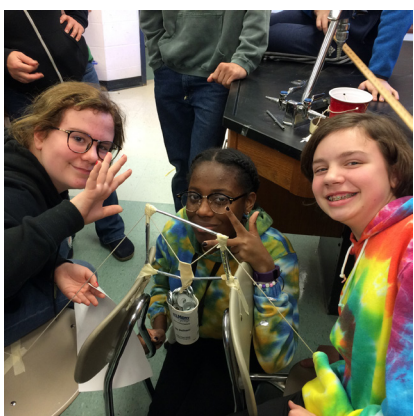


YEAR IN REVIEW



SMILE Teachers' Workshop August 22-23, 2019

This workshop presented SMILE teachers with the new curriculum theme "Inventions by Design." The focus on this past years' curriculum was on the interdisciplinary field of engineering. Teachers gained content knowledge through modules created for each school level (elementary, middle, and high schools) and were provided with training on a series of hands-on activities for implementation in their clubs.

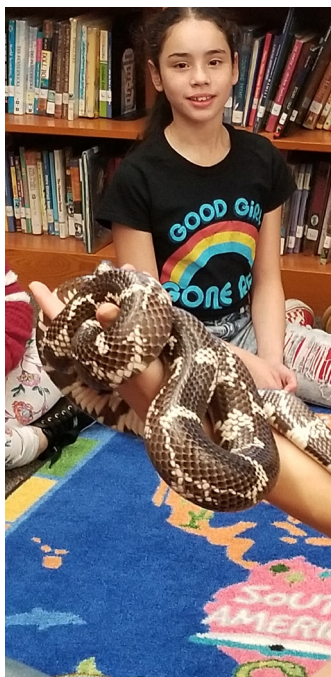


SMILE Teachers' Workshop December 3, 2019

The SMILE winter workshop focused on preparation for SMILE's annual events. Elementary teachers prepared for the 5th grade Elementary Outdoor Science Adventure and 4th grade URI Ecology Day with pre-activity themes on abiotic/biotic factors. Middle school teachers learned about wind turbines and pre-activities to prepare their students for a wind turbine building challenge. High school teachers focused on pre-activities and lessons to teach their students in preparation for a ROV underwater vehicle challenge.

District-wide Family Science Nights November/December 2019

Every fall each district plans a wonderful event called "Family Science Night (FSN)." These events bring together SMILE students, their families, and community members. FSN gives students the opportunity to demonstrate and explain interactive science and math activities. SMILE personnel inform parents and students about college admissions and student financial aid. FSN is a wonderful expression of interest and support by parents and community members. Parents have the opportunity to get more involved in their children's education, and see them as competent learners. This event serves as an engaging opportunity for students and families and boosts the confidence of our SMILE students.



SMILE Career Exploration Field Trips 2019-20

SMILE clubs went on a variety of career explorations that allowed students an opportunity to have first hand real world experiences with the science and math they learned in their SMILE clubs. Field-trips included the Rhode Island Landfill, The Beadery, Roger Williams Botanical Garden and Zoomobile, and KVH Industries.

SMILE Annual Events 2020

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic SMILE clubs were unable to attend their scheduled spring events including the 4th grade Ecology Field Day, 5th grade Elementary Outdoor Science Adventure, Middle School Engineering Challenge, and High School Engineering Challenge. These events have been rescheduled for fall 2020.

This year marked SMILE's 26th year. The success of The SMILE Program is due to the dedication of our teachers and students; collaboration with URI, school districts, local communities and mentor volunteers; and support from private foundations, corporations, and donors.



PARTNERSHIPS

SMILE Facilitated the Engagement of Industry, University Faculty and College Student Mentors

SMILE Teachers Professional Development Workshops

URI faculty and industry experts made presentations at the Teachers Professional Development and Workshops

Challenge Weekends, Elementary Outdoor Science Adventure and Elementary Ecology Field Day Mentors

- Amgen
- Schneider Electric
- Toray Plastics
- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
- Natural Resource Science Students
- Society of Women Engineers (SWE)
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
- URI Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)
- URI Center for Student Leadership
- American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES)
- Advancing Hispanics/Chicanos & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)
- Tau Beta Pi
- Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA)
- College of the Environment and Life Sciences Graduate Students

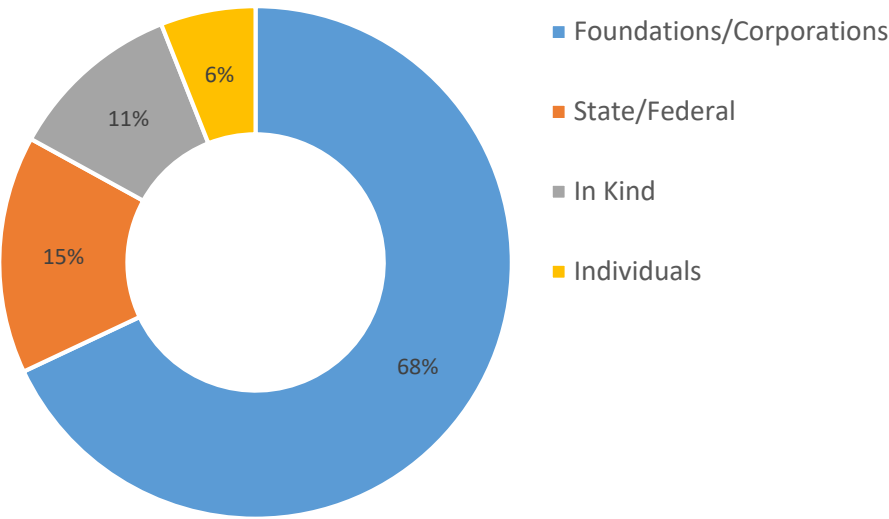
SMILE URI partners in pre-college STEM outreach activities.

URI Center for Student Leadership
URI College of Engineering
URI Graduate School of Oceanography

Steere Engineering
URI Talent Development

FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Sources 2019-20



SPONSORS

The SMILE Program gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors for their support

Amgen Foundation	SPIE
American Honda Foundation	Steere Engineering
Amica	Toray Plastics, America, Inc.
Arnold Lumber	University of Rhode Island
Boys & Girls Club of Providence	URI Transportation Center
The Champlin Foundations	van Beuren Charitable Foundation
Connecting For Children and Families	Verizon Foundation
Constellation, an Exelon company	YMCA of Greater Providence
Dominion	Central Falls School Department
Dassault Systèmes	Newport School Department
Graphic Expressions	Providence School Department
Holiday Inn South Kingstown	Providence Boys & Girls Club
June Rockwell Levy Foundation	South Kingstown School Department
Nordson Corporation Foundation	Walmart Foundation
NOAA B-Wet Program	Westerly School Department
Ocean State Charities Trust	West Warwick School Department
Pfizer	Woonsocket School Department
Ramsey McCluskey Family Foundation	
Red Sox Foundation	
Schneider Electric	

We would also like to thank our Individual Supporters, who are vital in helping The SMILE Program to continue its mission

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SMILE STAFF

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PROGRAM SUCCESS

2019-20 SMILE High School Graduates

1. 20 SMILE high school seniors students graduated high school.
2. SMILE high school senior students declared the following future college majors: forensic science, engineering, and mathematics, among others.
3. Selected Colleges and Universities: Brown University, University of Rhode Island, Salve Regina, , Rhode Island College, and Roger Williams University.

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT DATA 1994-2019

Source: College Enrollment by Participants in The SMILE Program 1998-2019
URI Office of Institutional Research, May 2019

1. Since its founding in 1994 to 2018, 4,107 students have participated in The SMILE Program.
2. The high school graduation rate for students that participated in SMILE for one or more years is between 90% and 100%.
3. The college enrollment of students who we were able to track using the National Student Clearinghouse is 75%. In 2018, 75% of all SMILE students who graduated immediately enrolled in college. Among low income students only 44% immediately enroll in college (2014 RI Kids Count Fact Book).
4. Since 1998, former SMILE participants who graduated high school have attended 370 different colleges and universities with locations in 33 different states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.
5. Between 1998 and 2018, 362 SMILE alumni have enrolled at URI and 70% pursued STEM majors.
6. In 2019, 36 SMILE alumni enrolled at URI, 71% of them are in STEM majors (Note: only 14% of all US college undergraduates are enrolled in STEM according to a US Dept. of Education Report).
7. For students in SMILE for three or more years, the ratio of students attending college versus those who did not attend college is approximately 2:1.
8. 100% of the students in SMILE for more than 7 years went to college.

SUCCESS STORIES

This year's graduating SMILE seniors are attending various colleges and universities in Rhode Island including Brown University, Rhode Island College, University of Rhode Island, Roger Williams University, and Community College of Rhode Island. Students are aiming to pursue STEM careers including: Mathematics, science, and engineering.

The SMILE Program congratulates all SMILE seniors class of 2020 and wishes them success in their academic and professional careers!

The SMILE Program
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