

The SMILE Program  
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# Annual Report 2017-2018



[www.uri.edu/smile](http://www.uri.edu/smile)

**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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## 2017-2018 SMILE High School Graduates

1. 17 SMILE high school seniors students graduated high school.
2. SMILE high school senior students declared the following future college majors: veterinary science, computer science, environmental studies, nursing, and pharmacy among others.
3. Selected Colleges and Universities: University of Rhode Island, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Community College of Rhode Island, and Rhode Island College.

## COLLEGE ENROLLMENT DATA 1994-2017

Source: College Enrollment by Participants in The SMILE Program 1998-2017  
URI Office of Institutional Research, May 2018

1. Since its founding in 1994 to 2018, 3,522 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 2017, 75% of all SMILE students who graduated immediately enrolled in college.
4. Since 1998, former SMILE participants who graduated high school have attended 237 different colleges and universities with locations in 33 different states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.
5. Between 1998 and 2017, 322 SMILE alumni have enrolled at URI and 70% pursued STEM majors.
6. In 2017, 40 SMILE alumni enrolled at URI, 68% 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.
9. 264 students who were in SMILE graduated high school, and 198 went to college immediately in the fall.

## SUCCESS STORIES

**This year's graduating SMILE seniors are attending various colleges and universities in Rhode Island including Rhode Island College, University of Rhode Island, and Community College of Rhode Island. Students are aiming to pursue STEM careers including: Nursing, Pharmacy, and Computer Science among others.**

**The SMILE Program congratulates all SMILE seniors class of 2018 and wishes them success in their academic and professional careers!**



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



CAROL M. ENGLANDER  
Director

Dear friend and supporters of the SMILE Program,

It has been a wonderful 24th year of SMILE. We have 522 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, Pawtucket, 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 17 SMILE high school seniors, most of whom are planning to attend college this fall. Six 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 their senior year. There are 324 students who have been in SMILE for one or more years who will graduate this year whose college attendance we will track.

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%. Our middle school students had the opportunity to explore engineering and technology at the University of Rhode Island through a crane and magnetically levitated train design, build, and test challenge, and SMILE high school students designed, built and tested a hybrid solar racing car gaining knowledge in solar technology. They did these activities at the University of Rhode Island, assisted by URI students, faculty and industry mentors. They gained confidence, new skills and a deepening awareness of what it is like to be a college student. Elementary students were engaged in environmental activities: 4th grade Elementary students came to URI Kingston campus for an Ecology Field Day mentored by URI students, and 5th graders participated in a 3 day 2 night environmental camp at URI W. Alton Jones campus led by URI students. For students who will be first in their family to go to college, these are wonderful first university experiences.

Through stewardship projects, SMILE students have even greater positive connections to their community and environment. These include making school yard bird houses, making cloth bags to replace plastic ones, mosquito traps, gifts from recycled materials, Linus project blankets donated to hospitals, and designing, digging and planting school and community gardens.

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 25th year bringing STEM activities to Rhode Island’s deserving and enthusiastic children.

Sincerely,

*Carol Englander*

SCHOOLS

The SMILE Program served 522 students and 26 schools across Rhode Island.

CENTRAL FALLS

Ella Risk Elementary School  
Calcutt Middle School  
Central Falls High School

NEWPORT

Claiborne Pell Elementary School  
Thompson Middle School  
Rogers High School

PAWTUCKET

Goff Middle School  
Tolman High School  
Shea High School

SOUTH KINGSTOWN

West Kingston Elementary  
Curtis Corner Middle School  
South Kingstown High School

WESTERLY

Springbrook Elementary School  
Westerly Middle School  
Westerly High School

WEST WARWICK

Horgan Elementary School  
Deering Middle School  
West Warwick 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

The SMILE Program gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors for their support

Amgen Foundation

Anonymous Donors

Arnold Lumber

Connecting For  
Children and Families

The Champlin Foundation

Dunkin Donuts

Graphic Expressions

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Holiday Inn South Kingstown

NOAA B-Wet Program

Pawtucket COZ-21<sup>st</sup> Century

Pfizer

Ramsey McCluskey  
Family Foundation

Schneider Electric

Steere Engineering

Toray Plastics, America, Inc.

University of Rhode Island

YMCA of Greater  
Providence

Central Falls School Department

Newport School Department

South Kingstown School  
Department

Pawtucket School  
Department

Westerly School Department

West Warwick School  
Department

Woonsocket School  
Department

van Beuren Charitable Foundation

Verizon Foundation

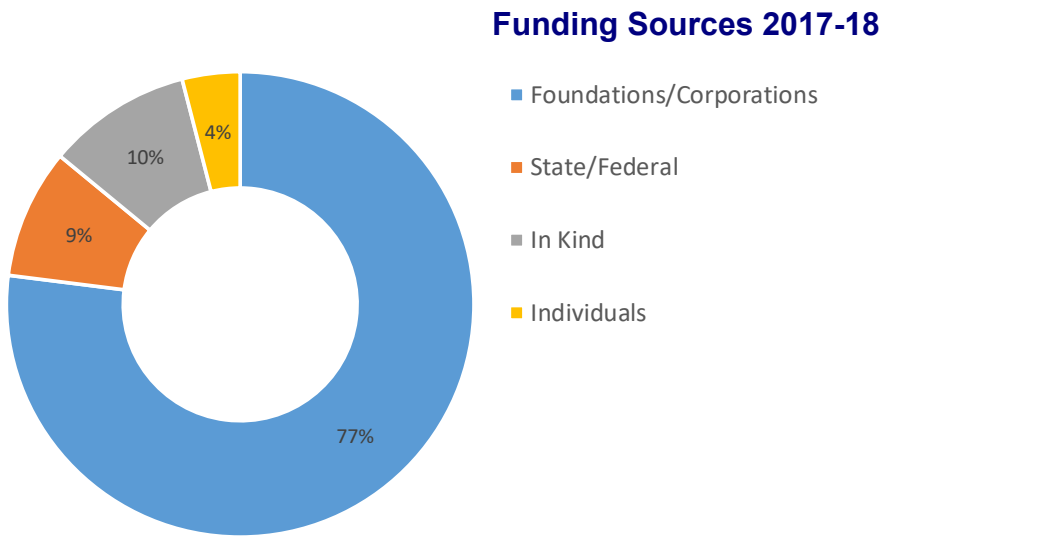
Zhang Bioinformatics Lab URI, through National  
Science Foundation

2017-2018 PARTICIPANTS AND CONTINUING STUDENTS

STUDENTS WITH 2 OR MORE YEARS IN THE PROGRAM		
	Students/Grade	2 or More Years
Elementary	184 (4-5 <sup>th</sup> )	64
Middle	192 (6-8 <sup>th</sup> )	112
High	146 (9-12 <sup>th</sup> )	67

RETURNING STUDENTS 2017-2018		
Total Returning Students	243	47%
Total Students in 2016-2017	522	

FUNDING SOURCES



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 International Network
- 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 Transportation Center
  - URI Center for Student Leadership
  - URI College of Engineering
  - URI Graduate School of Oceanography
- Dr.Zhang Bioniformatics Lab
  - Steere Engineering
  - URI Talent Development

A Unique URI Learning Community

This year during the spring semester, URI students from different majors took the SMILE EOSA Mentor course.

The EOSA program has become an important tradition for URI college students. They design the curriculum and activites, and act as leaders for a 3 days/2 nights elementary environmental camp at URI Alton Jones Campus.

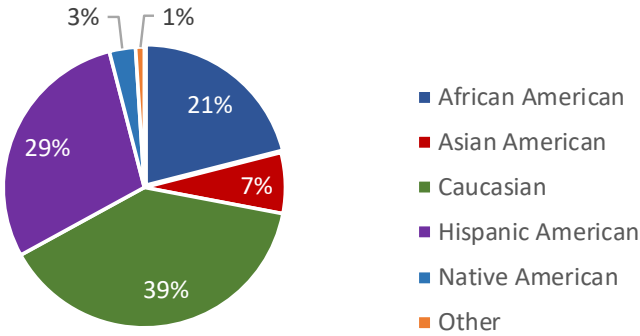


2018 URI Mentor Team Photo  
URI students took the PLS/NRS 492  
SMILE EOSA Mentor Course.

PARTICIPANTS

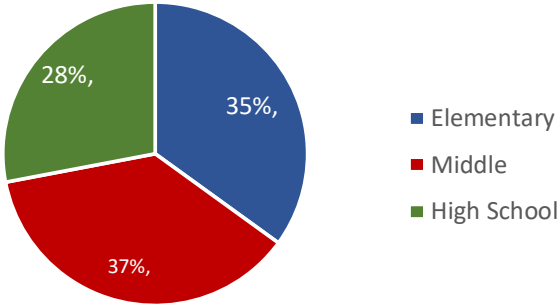
STUDENTS BY ETHNICITY		
African American	106	21%
Asian American	38	7%
Caucasian	204	39%
Hispanic American	147	29%
Native American	17	3%
Other	6	1%

Students By Ethnicity



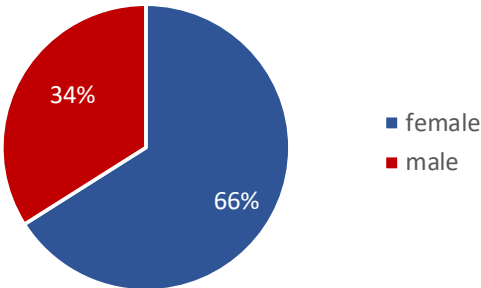
STUDENTS BY GRADE LEVEL		
	Students	Percentage
Elementary School	184	35%
Middle School	192	37%
High School	146	28%

Students By Grade Level



STUDENTS BY GENDER		
	Students	Percentage
Female	348	66%
Male	174	34%

Student By Gender



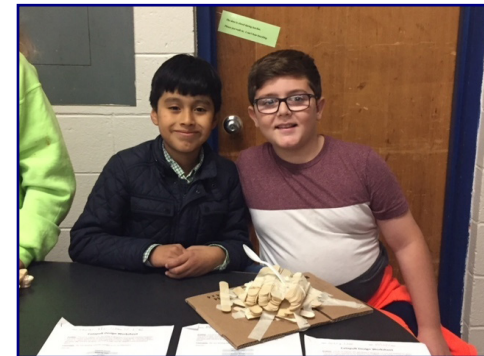


## YEAR IN REVIEW



### SMILE Teachers' Workshop August 23-24, 2017

This workshop presented SMILE teachers with the new curriculum theme "Engineering Explorations." The focus on this past years' curriculum was on the multidisciplinary field of engineering. The curriculum aimed to teach students how STEM has transformed the world in which we live. 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 8, 2017

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 and biotic factors. Middle school teachers learned about cranes and MagLev cars and pre-activities to prepare for the challenge. High school teachers focused on pre-activities and lessons to teach their students in preparation for a solar car challenge.

### District-wide Family Science Nights November 2017

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.

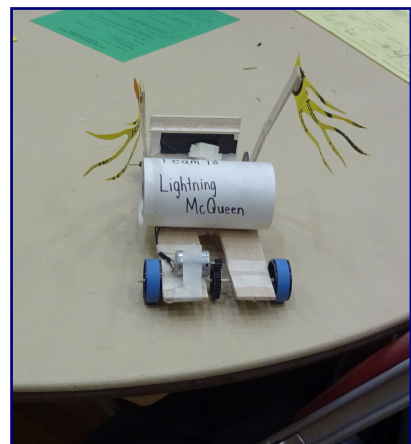


### Middle School Engineering Challenge Weekend. March 23-24, 2018

This past March, middle school students from seven districts came together to URI to work in mixed school teams on an engineering challenge. Students worked together in teams to design, build and test a crane and MagLev car. Students became engineers, designing their cranes and MagLevs. Middle schoolers also experienced 'college life' with meals in the dining halls, a tour of the campus, and time in the recreation areas. A big Thank You to all of our URI student and faculty mentors, and sponsors who helped make this a wonderful Challenge Event.

### High School Engineering Challenge Weekend. April 27-28, 2018

This year, high school students from seven high schools participated in the solar car engineering high school challenge. For this challenge, students designed, built, and tested solar powered vehicles. SMILE students also participated in bioinformatics activities with Dr. Zhang and her students during a high-tech computer lab. During the event students also met with university students from science, math, and engineering colleges and Admissions staff, ate in the dining halls and visited the college recreation center.



*"SMILE inspires me to do better in all of my classes and it makes me think more about different career possibilities."-SMILE Middle Schol Student*

*"I love being outdoors. We realized that everthing is so interesting especially when you're in the water and mud, you can learn awesome science facts." -SMILE Elementary Student*

*"SMILE has positively influenced me over the years because it has showed me there are som many opportunities after high school, and having hands-on experience is great to see what you really like to do." -SMILE High School Student*

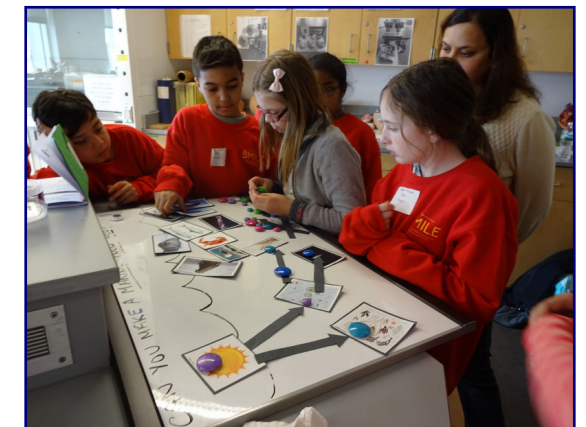
### 5th Grade Elementary Outdoor Science Adventure. April 6-8, 2018

In early April, 5th grade elementary students attended a 3-day 2-night environmental science camp at URI's W. Alton Jones Campus. URI student mentors led SMILE students through a series of outdoor field-studies where students had the opportunity to visit and explore different habitat types and learn about abiotic and biotic factors. The URI student mentors were wonderful role models to SMILE elementary students, sharing their stories and career aspirations during evening campfires and cabin talks.



### 4th Grade URI Ecology Day April 12, 2018

On April 12th, SMILE 4th grade elementary students attended the third annual SMILE URI Ecology Field Day. SMILE students spent the day with URI graduate students from the College of the Environment and Life Sciences participating in hands-on environmental activities. Throughout the day students rotated through different areas of the campus and learned about life and environmental sciences. At the greenhouse, they learned about plants and got to transplant and take home their own tomato plant. In the Center for Biotech and Life Sciences, students took part in hands-on marine life activities. In North Woods, students took a hike to observe the biodiversity in the area, learn about dissolved oxygen and ph, and explore the life in a vernal pool. The focus of the day was to introduce students to a variety of science and environmental careers and provide them with exposure to a college campus.



### SMILE Students Design & Implement STEWARDSHIP Projects

This spring, 26 SMILE clubs participated in Environmental Stewardship Projects. For this project, SMILE students worked together to design and implement a stewardship project on their school grounds. Projects from this year included school gardens, working with local land trust to help clear nature paths, school recycling and repurposing campaigns, and cleaning up school grounds, among others. These projects instill in SMILE students a sense of responsibility and stewardship towards the environment and community. SMILE is especially proud of its students and the wonderful work they have done for their schools and community this Spring.

