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**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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## 2015-2016 SMILE High School Graduates

1. 22 SMILE high school seniors students graduated high school.
2. SMILE high school senior students declared the following future college majors: biology, engineering, game design, nursing, neuroscience, and pharmacy.
3. Selected Colleges and Universities: University of Rhode Island, Brown University, Rhode Island College, Roger Williams University, and Community College of Rhode Island.

## COLLEGE ENROLLMENT DATA 1994-2015

Source: College Enrollment by Participants in The SMILE Program 1998-2013  
URI Office of Institutional Research, May 2016

1. Since its founding in 1994 to 2016, 2,962 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 54%. In 2015, 54% 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 144 different colleges and universities with locations in 33 different states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.
5. Between 1998 and 2015, 256 SMILE alumni have enrolled at URI and 69% pursued STEM majors.
6. In 2015, 85 SMILE alumni were enrolled at URI and 84% of them were in STEM majors.
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

**Central Falls High School**, SMILE student Gregorio Benitez will be attending Brown University to study Computational Biology this coming Fall.

The SMILE Program congratulates all SMILE seniors class of 2016 and wishes them success in their academic and professional careers!



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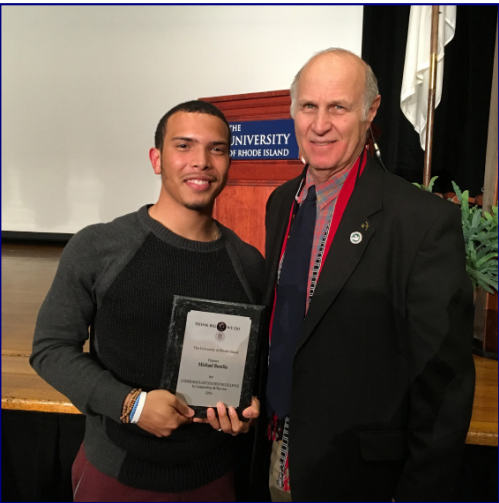
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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

URI Diversity Award, University of Rhode Island. April, 2016.

The University of Rhode Island presented SMILE alumni and URI Student SMILE staff, Michael Bonilla with an award for his leadership and commitment to a non-violent and diverse campus. Michael has worked with the Student Nonviolence Involvement Coalition (SNIC) and is a certified Kingian nonviolence trainer.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



CAROL M. ENGLANDER  
Director

Dear Friends and Supporters of The SMILE Program,

As the very successful SMILE Program’s 22nd year draws to a close, I am pleased to report that SMILE has made a tremendous difference in the lives of our Rhode Island students. This year we celebrate 22 SMILE graduating seniors, most of which plan to go to college.

Our SMILE alumni college students continue their STEM studies at approximately a 73% rate. Our college retention rate for URI students who entered the University in 2014 is 90%. SMILE requires its high school students to take four years of college track math and science which increases students’ preparedness for college, perseverance, and eventual college graduation. The SMILE Program continues to be Rhode Island’s most important pipeline for helping diverse students develop their identity and competence as scientists in preparation for college. Our middle school students had the opportunity to explore engineering and technology at the University of Rhode Island through a wind turbine design, build, and test challenge, and SMILE high school students built and tested the aerodynamics of a glider. 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 that also took place at URI. For students who will be first in their family to go to college, this was a wonderful first university experience.

The work of The SMILE Program continues with the help of all of our funders. Through the generosity and forward thinking of the Rhode Island Foundation, SMILE expanded to Newport at the elementary, middle and high school levels. We very successfully engaged more students and teachers in our hands-on science and math after-school programs. Recognizing this successful launch of Newport SMILE, The RI Foundation has awarded SMILE a grant for 2016-17 to start The SMILE Program in Westerly at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

SMILE students at all three levels are engaged in community stewardship activities, planning and implementing projects including school gardens, waste removal and reduction, building and placing bird houses around their schools, marsh plant restoration, and building a stone pathway to alleviate muddy conditions in a school yard. These projects raise awareness of the environment and promote a strong sense of community among SMILE students.

Thank you for all your support and efforts on behalf of all our SMILE students, present and future.

Sincerely,

*Carol Englander*

SCHOOLS

The SMILE Program served 441 students and 22 schools across Rhode Island.

CENTRAL FALLS

Ella Risk Elementary School  
Calcutt Middle School  
Central Falls High School

SOUTH KINGSTOWN

West Kingston Elementary  
Curtis Corner Middle School  
South Kingstown 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

PAWTUCKET

Goff Middle School  
Tolman High School  
Shea 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

2015-2016 PARTICIPANTS AND CONTINUING STUDENTS

STUDENTS WITH 2 OR MORE YEARS IN THE PROGRAM			
	Students/Grade	2 or More Years	Percentage
Elementary	178 (4-5 <sup>th</sup> )	48	27%
Middle	163 (6-8 <sup>th</sup> )	98	60%
High	100 (9-12 <sup>th</sup> )	53	53%

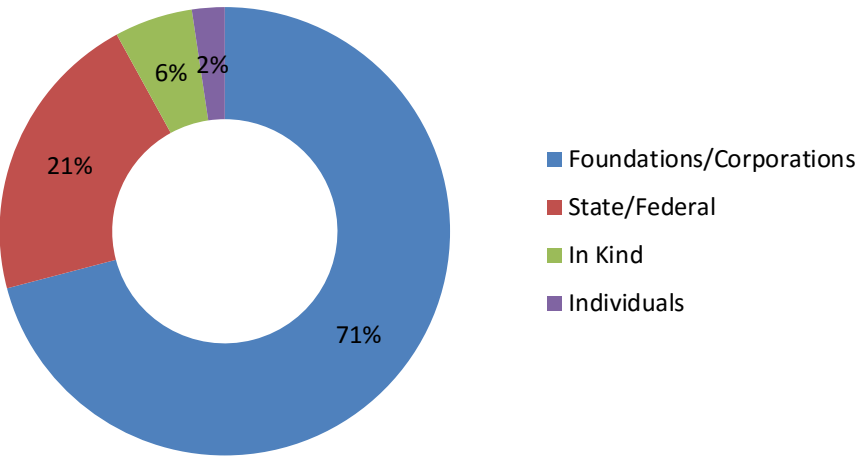
RETURNING STUDENTS 2015-2016		
Total Returning Students	185	42%
Total Students in 2015-2016	441	

*The SMILE Program gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors for their support*

- Amgen Foundation  
Amgen Biotech Experience  
Amica  
Anonymous Donors  
Arnold Lumber  
Connecting For Children and Families  
Constellation, an Exelon Company  
Dominion  
Dunkin Donuts  
Graphic Expressions  
URI Graduate Students Association  
Holiday Inn South Kingstown  
Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A Trustee  
Nordson Corporation Foundation  
NOAA B-Wet Program  
Pawtucket COZ-21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Pfizer
- Preisser Lab, URI  
Ramsey McCluskey Family Foundation  
Rhode Island Foundation  
Schneider Electric  
Steere Engineering  
Toray Plastics, America, Inc.  
University of Rhode Island  
URI Transportation Center  
YMCA of Greater Providence  
Central Falls School Department  
Newport School Department  
South Kingstown School Department  
Pawtucket School Department  
West Warwick School Department  
Woonsocket School Department

FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Sources 2015-16



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
- Navatek LLC
- 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 Talent Development
- URI Graduate School of Oceanography

- Dr. Evan Preisser Lab
- Steere Engineering
- Steere Engineering
- Pare Engineering

A Unique URI Learning Community

This year during the spring semester, 17 URI students from different majors took the SMILE EOSA Mentor course.

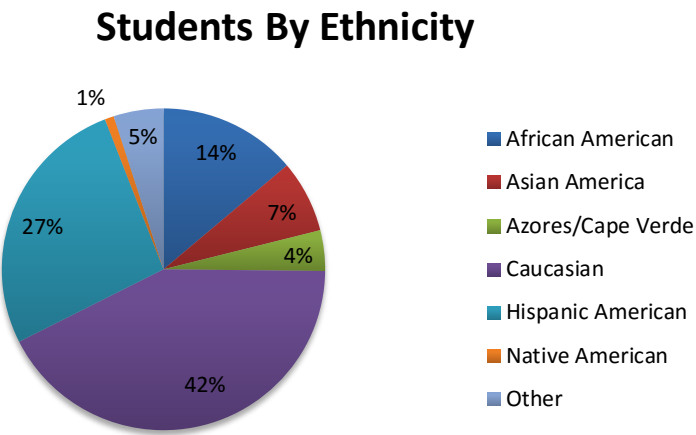
The EOSA program has become an important tradition for URI college students. They design the curriculum and activites, and act as leaders for a 3 days/2 nights elementary environmental camp at URI Alton Jones Campus.



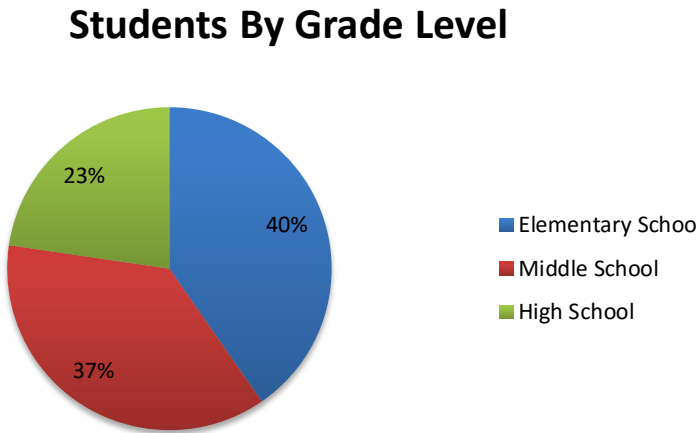
17 URI students took the PLS/NRS 492  
SMILE EOSA Mentor Course

PARTICIPANTS

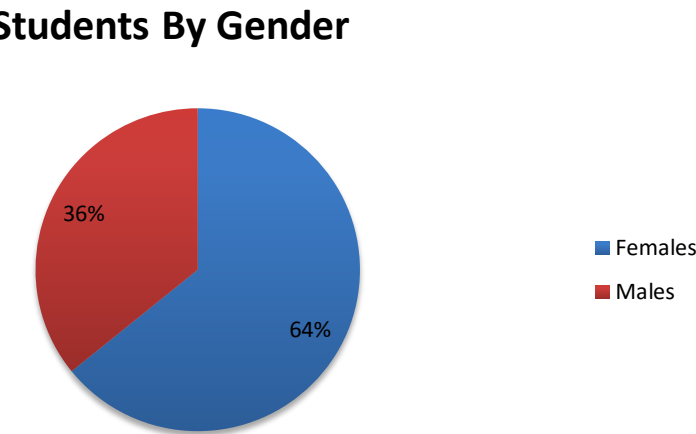
STUDENTS BY ETHNICITY		
African American	61	13%
Asian American	32	7%
Azores/Cape Verde	18	4%
Caucasian	187	43%
Hispanic American	117	27%
Native American	4	1%
Other	22	5%



STUDENTS BY GRADE LEVEL		
	Students	Percentage
Elementary School	178	40%
Middle School	163	37%
High School	100	23%



STUDENTS BY GENDER		
	Students	Percentage
Female	283	64%
Male	158	36%





## YEAR IN REVIEW



**SMILE Teachers' Workshop** August 19-20, 2015 - This workshop presented SMILE teachers with the new curriculum theme "Ocean and Offshore Waters." The focus on this past years' curriculum was focused on ocean science and how the ocean influences us and how we influence the health of marine environments. 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. Teachers conducted squid dissections, performed tests to demonstrate salinity, and dissected bolus among other activities.

**SMILE Teachers' Workshop** December 2, 2015 - 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 wind energy 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 about the concepts associated with flight in preparation for a new challenge to construct a glider.

**District-wide Family Science Nights** November 2015 - 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 11-12, 2016 This past March, 115 middle school students from six districts came together to URI to work in mixed school teams on an engineering challenge. Students worked together in teams to design and build a functioning wind turbine generator. Students became engineers, designing blade shapes, building nacelles, and testing the turbine's production of electrical energy. 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.

**5th Grade Elementary Outdoor Science Adventure** April 8-10, 2016 This year marked the 20th annual EOSA event. In early April, 70 5th grade elementary students attended a 3-day 2-night environmental science camp at the beautiful URI 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.

***The SMILE Program had a successful year and increased its reach by adding three additional clubs (one each at the elementary, middle, and high school levels) in Newport. 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.***

**4th Grade URI Ecology Day** April 15, 2016 - 80 SMILE 4th grade elementary students attended the first 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 a hands-on marine lesson and seaweed scavenger hunt. In North Woods, students took a hike to observe the biodiversity in the area 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 High School Engineering Challenge Weekend** April 29-30, 2016 - This year, 70 SMILE high school students from seven high schools participated in the event. SMILE students got a real taste of college life. During the event students met with university students from science, math, and engineering colleges and Admissions staff, ate in the dining halls and visited the college recreation center. This year's two-day challenge was to build a foam core glider capable of sustained flight. Teams worked together to assemble and test their gliders. On Saturday teams tested their gliders for distance and accuracy. The farthest distance a glider went was 130 feet. The event was a huge success thanks to our SMILE teachers, staff, URI and corporate mentors.

**SMILE Students Design & Implement STEWARDSHIP Projects** This spring, 22 SMILE clubs participated in environmental stewardship projects. Thanks to grants from NOAA B-WET and Dominion Foundation SMILE students were provided with the opportunity to participate in a community stewardship project and/or design and implement a stewardship project on their school grounds. Projects from this year included school gardens, marsh plant restoration, building and placing bird nesting boxes for local wildlife, and building a stone pathway 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.

