



www.uri.edu/smile

The SMILE Program
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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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2014-2015 SMILE High School Graduates

1. 43 SMILE High School seniors students graduated high school.
2. 95% of SMILE high school senior students reported attending a two-or four-year college in the Fall of 2015.
3. SMILE high school senior students declared the following future college majors. 25 students declared STEM majors (Biology, Veterinary Science, Pre-Med, Electrical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Mathematics, Neuroscience, Marine Biology, and Physical Therapy); 15 students were undecided; 2 students will major in Psychology, and 1 in International Business.
4. Selected Colleges and Universities: University of Rhode Island, Brown University, Johnson and Wales University, Hawaii Pacific University, University of New Haven, Bridgewater State University, University of California at Santa Cruz, Northeastern University, Bristol Community College, University of New Hampshire, Rhode Island College, United States Naval Academy.

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT DATA 1994-2014

Source: College Enrollment by Participants in The SMILE Program 1998-2013
URI Office of Institutional Research, May 2015

1. Since its founding in 1994 to 2015, 2,707 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 Loan Clearinghouse is 51%. In 2011, 58% of all Rhode Island students who graduated immediately enrolled in college. Among low income student 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 2014, 229 SMILE alumni have enrolled at URI and 69% pursued STEM majors.
6. In 2014, 59 SMILE alumni were enrolled at URI and 86% of them were in STEM majors. Note: only 14% of all U.S. college undergraduates are enrolled in STEM according to a 2009 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

Central Falls High School. Seniors have found great success in their college acceptances this year. Student Sebastian Zuleta, will be attending the Naval Academy Preparatory School and student Mariajose Escobar will be attending Tufts University.

Tolman High School. SMILE Senior Mohita Minea will be attending Brown University in the Fall. She has been an active SMILE member for three years and is second in her graduating class.

South Kingstown High School. Student Josh Beck has been selected as a U.S. Presidential Scholar for the state of Rhode Island. Student Matt Sheehy was the first recipient of the University of New Haven's Kaufmann Scholarship with a four year scholarship to their engineering school.

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

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

URI Diversity Award, University of Rhode Island. April, 2015.

The University of Rhode Island presented The SMILE Program’s Director, Carol Englander, with an award for Staff/Administration Excellence in Leadership and Service for her 21 years of service and establishment of The SMILE Program in Rhode Island.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

CAROL M. ENGLANDER
Director



Dear Friends and Supporters of The SMILE Program,

As the very successful SMILE Program’s 21st 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 43 SMILE graduating seniors, the largest number in our history and 41 of them plan to attend college this fall. In this year’s college graduating class, two of our SMILE alumni from West Warwick have graduated from the University of Rhode Island’s College of Pharmacy with Pharmacy Doctorates. We are so proud of their accomplishments and wish them continued success.

Our SMILE alumni college students continue their STEM studies at approximately a 73% rate. We await the data from URI Office of Institutional Research and the College Student Loan Association to determine the total SMILE alumni U.S. college graduation rates. 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.

I am proud of the Diversity Award I received this May from the URI Multicultural Center. “Over the past 21 years, the SMILE Program has become Rhode Island’s most important pipeline for helping diverse students develop their identity and competence as scientists in preparation for college (17th Annual URI Diversity Awards).” My SMILE staff and SMILE teachers share in this award.

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 is expanding to Newport at the elementary, middle and high school levels. We look forward to engaging more students and teachers in our hands-on science and math afterschool programs.

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

Sincerely,

Carol Englander

SCHOOLS

The SMILE Program served 429 students and 19 schools across Rhode Island.

CENTRAL FALLS

Ella Risk Elementary School
Calcutt Middle School
Central Falls High School

PAWTUCKET

Goff Middle School
Tolman High School
Shea High School

SOUTH KINGSTOWN

West Kingston Elementary
Curtis Corner Middle School
Broad Rock Middle School
South Kingstown 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

2014-2015 PARTICIPANTS AND CONTINUING STUDENTS

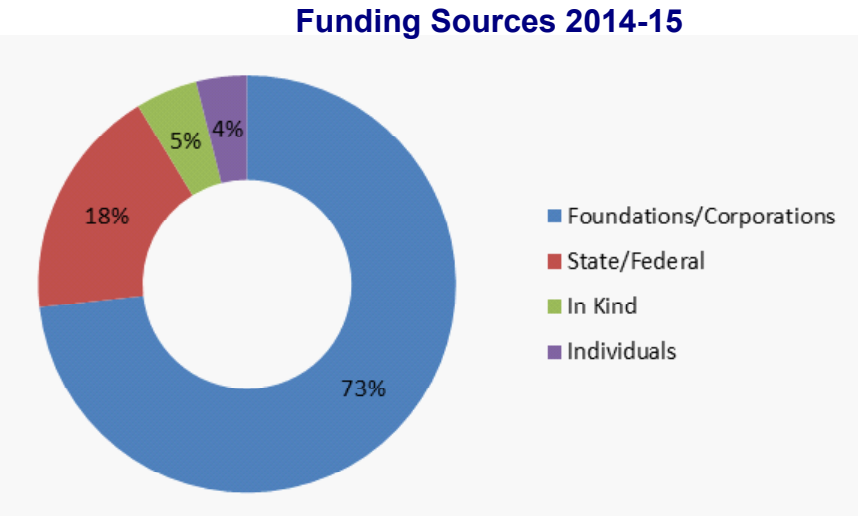
STUDENTS WITH 2 OR MORE YEARS IN THE PROGRAM			
	Students/Grade	2 or More Years	Percentage
Elementary	155 (4-5 th)	73	47%
Middle	136 (6-8 th)	81	52%
High	138 (9-12 th)	81	52%

RETURNING STUDENTS 2014-2015		
Total Returning Students	235	54.7%
Total Students in 2014-2015	429	

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
Eaton Aerospace Foundation
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-21st Century
Pfizer
- 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
South Kingstown School Department
Pawtucket School Department
West Warwick School Department
Woonsocket School Department

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

Challenge Weekends, Elementary Outdoor Science Adventure and Elementary Science Field-trip 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 Talent Development
- URI Graduate School of Oceanography

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

A Unique URI Learning Community

This year during the spring semester, 15 URI students from different majors took the SMILE EOSA Mentor course.

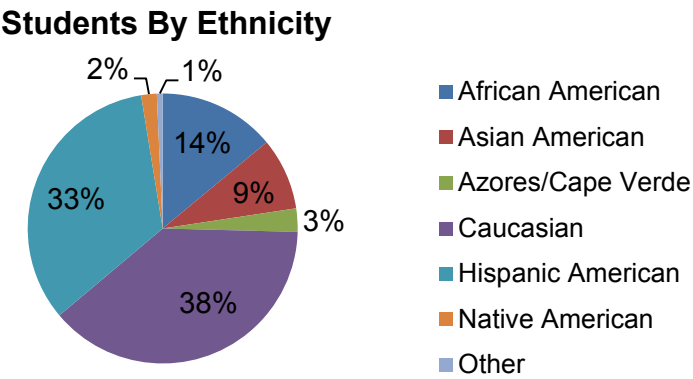
The EOSA program has become an important tradition for URI college students. They design the curriculum and activites, and act as leaders for a 3 days/2 nights elementary environmental camp at URI Alton Jones Campus.



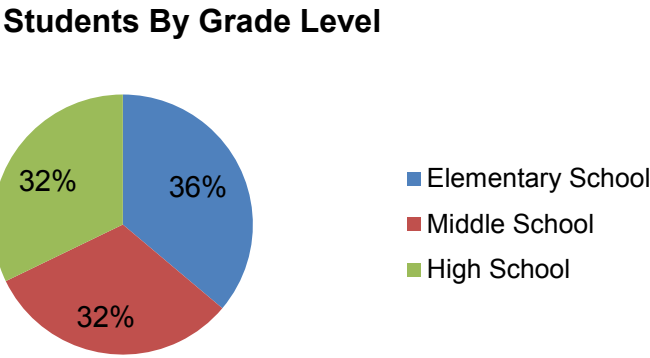
13 URI students took the 3 credit URI PLS/NRS 492 SMILE EOSA Mentor Course

PARTICIPANTS

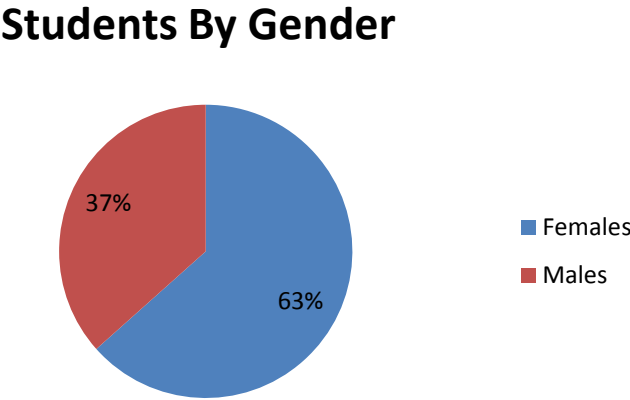
STUDENTS BY ETHNICITY		
African American	60	14%
Asian American	37	9%
Azores/Cape Verde	12	3%
Caucasian	165	38%
Hispanic American	144	33%
Native American	8	2%
Other	3	1%



STUDENTS BY GRADE LEVEL		
	Students	Percentage
Elementary School	155	36%
Middle School	136	32%
High School	138	32%



STUDENTS BY GENDER		
	Students	Percentage
Female	272	63%
Male	157	37%



YEAR IN REVIEW



SMILE Teachers' Workshop August 13-14, 2014 - This workshop presented SMILE teachers with the new curriculum theme **"Watersheds and Estuaries."** The focus on this past years' curriculum was estuaries and how they related to the watershed. Teachers gained content knowledge and were provided with training on a series of hands-on activities. For example, teachers created water filters from various materials to explore the important role that wetlands play in contaminant removal. The workshop ended with a presentation on *Science as Enquiry* by renowned science lecturer and SMILE Curriculum Advisor, Cathy Valentino.

SMILE Teachers' Workshop December 5, 2014 - The SMILE winter workshop focused on preparation for SMILE's annual events. Elementary teachers prepared for the Elementary Outdoor Science Adventure and studied the chemical and physical features of habitats that allow plants and animals to thrive. Middle school teachers learned about cranes and MagLev trains while engaging in a series of hands-on activities to practice and bring back to their SMILE clubs. High school teachers focused on pre-activities and lessons to teach their students about the concepts associated with the construction of Remotely Operated Vehicles including buoyancy, thrust, and lift.

District-wide Family Science Nights 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 6-7, 2015- This past March, 100 middle school students (6th, 7th, and 8th graders) from five districts came together to URI to work in mixed school teams on an engineering challenge. Students worked together in teams to design, build and construct the tower, boom, cable, and hydraulic system of their very own functioning cranes. Students also desgined and constructed MagLev cars that they then tested on a magnetic track. 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!

SMILE High School Challenge Event. March 27-28, 2015 - This year, 92 SMILE high school students from six high schools participated in the event. SMILE students got a real taste of college life. They took a tour of the campus with a focus on the science, engineering, and math colleges, met with URI admissions staff, ate in the dining halls and visited the Keaney Gym. This year's two day challenge was to build a SeaPerch

The SMILE Program had a successful year thanks to the dedication of our teachers; the talent of our SMILE students; collaboration with URI, school districts, local communities and mentor volunteers; and support from private foundations, corporations, and donors.

Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). Teams worked together to cut pipes and assemble the ROV frame, solder wires to create a control board, and designed their ROVs to be equipped with underwater cameras and an arm to pick up objects. On Saturday teams tested their ROVs in the pool through a series of tasks on an underwater obstacle course. The event was a huge success thanks to our SMILE teachers, staff, URI and corporate mentors.

Elementary Outdoor Science Adventure. April 10-12, 2015 - This year marked the 19th Annual EOSA event. In early April, 115 4th and 5th grade 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 the biodiversity they contain. The URI student mentors were wonderful role models to SMILE elementary students, sharing their stories and career aspirations during evening campfires and cabin talks. Despite the cold winter, the weekend weather was perfect. Students were lucky enough to even encounter some local wildlife including spotted salamanders, wood frogs, and turtles.

Preisser Lab Outreach - Field Trip to URI April 30, 2015 - SMILE elementary students attended a field-trip to URI's College of Environment and Life Sciences. During the afternoon event students rotated through three 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 viewed the University's insect collection. In North Woods, students took a hike to observe the biodiversity in the area. This was the first year SMILE elementary students had the opportunity to attend an event at URI. SMILE is looking forward to making this a new annual college experience for our young elementary students.

SMILE Students Design & Implement STEWARDSHIP Projects This spring, students from all SMILE clubs, 19 clubs all together, developed and implemented their Environmental Stewardship Projects. Thanks to grants from NOAA B-WET and Dominion Foundation SMILE students have been able to "think big". Their goals: to decrease stormwater runoff, increase habitat for wildlife, decrease plastic and garbage waste, and educate their communities on the importance of watersheds and estuaries!

