

Annual Report 2018-19



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 has been a wonderful 25th year of SMILE. We have 427 Rhode Island students participating in the program this year at the elementary, middle and high school levels from six school districts, with students from Central Falls, Newport, 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. Two 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 355 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 wind turbine design, build, and test challenge, and SMILE high school students designed, built and tested underwater Remotely Operated Vehicles. 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 two-day day, one-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 26th year bringing STEM activities to Rhode Island's deserving and enthusiastic children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Englund".

OUR REACH

SCHOOLS

The SMILE Program served 427 students and 22 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

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

2018-2019 PARTICIPANTS AND CONTINUING STUDENTS

STUDENTS WITH 2 OR MORE YEARS IN THE PROGRAM		
	Students/Grade	2 or More Years
Elementary	182 (4-5 th)	50
Middle	147 (6-8 th)	107
High	98 (9-12 th)	78

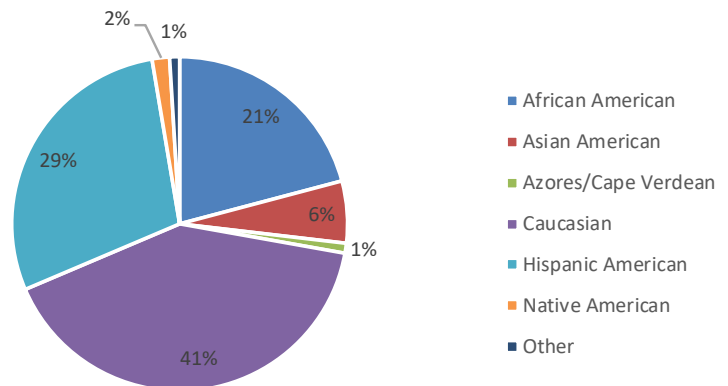
RETURNING STUDENTS 2018-2019		
Total Returning Students	235	55%
Total Students in 2018-19	427	

PARTICIPANTS

STUDENTS BY ETHNICITY

African American	87	21%
Asian American	25	6%
Azores/Cape Verdean	4	1%
Caucasian	170	40%
Hispanic American	120	29%
Native American	7	2%
Other	4	1%

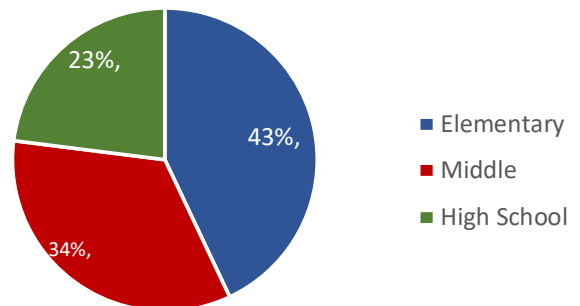
Students by Ethnicity



STUDENTS BY GRADE LEVEL

	Students	Percentage
Elementary School	182	43%
Middle School	147	34%
High School	98	23%

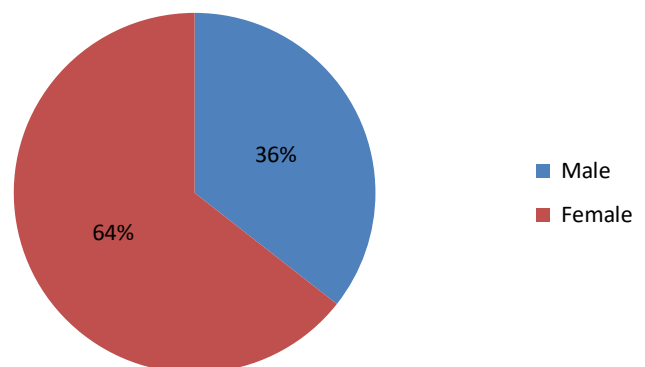
Students By Grade Level



STUDENTS BY GENDER

	Percentage
Female	64%
Male	36%

Students By Gender



YEAR IN REVIEW



SMILE Teachers' Workshop August 22-23, 2018

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, 2018

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 2018

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 29-30, 2019

This past March, 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, build and test a functioning wind turbine. Students became engineers, designing their turbines and then testing them to see how much electricity they could generate. 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 26-27, 2019

This year, high school students from six high schools participated in the underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) high school challenge. For this challenge, students designed, built, and tested an ROV using SeaPerch equipment. 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 marked SMILE's 25th 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.

5th Grade Elementary Outdoor Science Adventure. April 5-6, 2019

This year marked the 24th Annual EOSA event. In early April, 5th grade elementary students attended a 2-day 1-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 11, 2019

On April 11th, 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 a hands-on marine life lesson. 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 Students Design & Implement STEWARDSHIP Projects

This spring, 25 SMILE clubs participated in Environmental Stewardship projects. 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, bird house/nest building, cleaning up school grounds, beach cleanups, 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.



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

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 activities, and act as leaders for a 2-day/1-night elementary environmental camp at URI Alton Jones Campus.



URI students took the PLS/NRS 492
SMILE EOSA Mentor Course.
Here's the 2019 Mentor Team

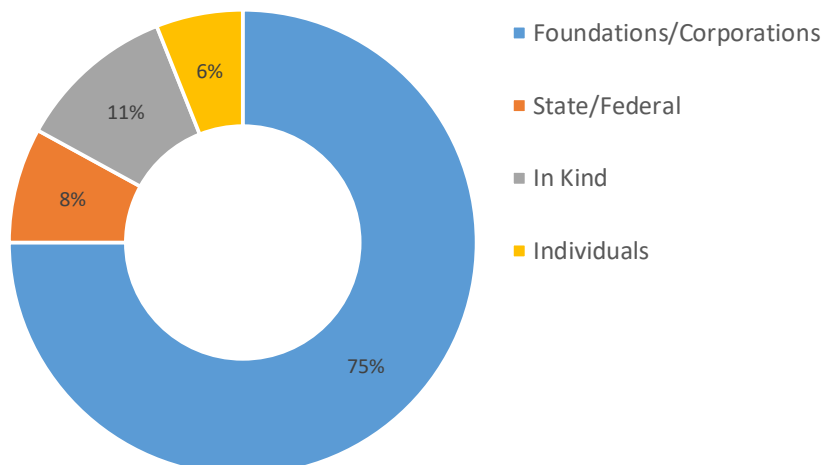
SPONSORS

The SMILE Program gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors for their support

Amgen Foundation	Schneider Electric
Amica	Steere Engineering
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Arnold Lumber	University of Rhode Island
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Constellation, An Exelon Company	YMCA of Greater Providence
Graphic Expressions	Central Falls School Department
Gilbane	Newport School Department
Holiday Inn South Kingstown	South Kingstown School Department
June Rockwell Levy Foundation	South Kingstown Town Council
Nordson Corporation Foundation	Westerly School Department
Pfizer	West Warwick School Department
Ramsey McCluskey Family Foundation	Woonsocket School Department

FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Sources 2018-19



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PROGRAM SUCCESS

2018-2019 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: environmental science, engineering, and nursing, among others.
3. Selected Colleges and Universities: Brown University, University of Rhode Island, Salve Regina, Drexel University, Rhode Island College, Roger Williams University, and Community College of Rhode Island.

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT DATA 1994-2018

Source: College Enrollment by Participants in The SMILE Program 1998-2018
URI Office of Institutional Research, May 2019

1. Since its founding in 1994 to 2017, 3,872 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 2018, 40 SMILE alumni enrolled at URI, 70% 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: Environmental Science, Engineering, and Nursing, among others.

The SMILE Program congratulates all SMILE seniors class of 2019 and wishes them success in their academic and professional careers!

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www.uri.edu/smile
