

Educators, youth workers invited to apply to be 2016 Career Readiness Fellows; applications due June 15

Governor Gina M. Raimondo and Board of Education Chair Barbara S. Cottam invite K-12 educators; guidance counselors; youth-center staff; faculty and staff at the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, the University of Rhode Island; and any individuals who work with youth in government or in a nonprofit setting to apply to be a 2016 Career Readiness Fellow. Rhode Island is undertaking an initiative to promote career readiness throughout our education system and for all students. We need your help and are looking for fellows to take the lead in developing solutions in the following areas:

Project Area 1: Creating a Demand-Driven and Employer-Led Career System

- How can partnerships with industry help improve the quality of career programming?
- Have you thought about ways to better align the K-12 system with the needs of employers?
- Are you familiar with one of the new [P-Tech Programs](#) and do you want to explore other creative programs that work with industry to create real career and postsecondary pathways for students?

Project Area 2: Ensuring Rigor and Quality in Career Pathways for All

- Do you have ideas about how to incentivize career professionals to join the teaching corps or about how to increase the skills of existing teachers?
- Do you have ideas about how we can expose more elementary- and middle-school students to different types of careers?
- Have you come up with innovative ways we can improve career advising options for students?
- Have you developed interesting and engaging career-related or work-based curriculum?
- How do we ensure that current and new career-readiness programs are high quality and build the skills that matter to industry?

Project Area 3: Developing a Career-Focused Accountability System

- In what way should career-focused indicators be included within our state accountability system?
- What indicators will help schools and districts better prioritize career readiness?
- How would you define “career-ready”? What will it take for a student to be considered “college and career ready”?

Project Area 4: Creating Scaled Career Pathways that Culminate in Credentials

- Do you have thoughts about how Rhode Island can expand student pathways from high school to and through postsecondary education and into the workforce?
- Do you want to help identify ways to increase the number of certifications or stackable credentials earned by high-school students?
- Do you want to ensure that all high-school students receive some work-based or experiential learning experience – an internship, summer employment, after-school job, pre-apprenticeship, work experience – as part of the high-school experience?

Eligibility

If you have a perspective on these areas, then this fellowship is for you! We are looking to award up to four fellowships to K-12 public-school educators; guidance counselors youth-center staff; faculty and staff at the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, or the University of Rhode Island; or any individuals who work with youth in government or nonprofits in our state.

The Career Readiness Fellowship is a chance for practitioners in Rhode Island to make their voices heard and use their experience working with students in classrooms and schools to inform policy around new efforts to expand career readiness for all students in Rhode Island, with a special emphasis on equity and opportunity for traditionally underserved populations.

As part of the Summer Fellowship, Fellows will:

- contribute toward the creation of a clear vision of what career readiness should and can be in Rhode Island;
- create and hone their own ideas for smart policy around increasing career-readiness opportunities for Rhode Island students;
- offer recommendations for short- and long-term policy changes that must be made to best support career-readiness initiatives in our state;
- conduct research on best practices and what other states are doing to promote career readiness;
- review and analyze labor market information to recommend strategies for developing new career-preparation programs;
- participate in working groups and policy trainings to develop an action plan for career readiness;
- survey the state to engage Rhode Islanders and to obtain ideas from across Rhode Island; and
- participate in state convenings and forums on career readiness.

Fellows must be able to commit to:

- attend an in-person, full-day orientation, training and design kick-off (date TBD);
- dedicate at least 100 hours over the months of July and August (the equivalent of 20 hours per week for five weeks); the work will be mostly completed in flexible hours and virtually, although weekly check-ins will be required; and
- being a state leader in career-readiness strategy beyond the summer, by participating in convenings and engaging with fellow educators.

As part of this commitment, Fellows will receive:

- A \$5,000 stipend for their efforts; and
- significant policy and leadership experience, with assistance and mentorship from state policy leaders.

How to Apply:

Please submit and a no more than one-page abstract with a proposal to address one of the four career-readiness project areas listed above. Proposals should

include practical, achievable, but bold ideas the state can undertake to improve the career-readiness system in each area. If chosen, you will spend your time in the fellowship developing and preparing the proposal you submit for state adoption, with the assistance of state and industry leaders.

Applications will be due **June 15**. Please submit with a 1-page resume, including contact information, and your proposal to Arthur.nevins@governor.ri.gov .

Please also use the contact below for any questions:

Art Nevins
Office of Governor Gina M. Raimondo
401-222-8120 (office)
arthur.nevins@governor.ri.gov