

Contact: Katherine Linwood Chu  
Communications Manager  
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT  
[kchu@rikidscount.org](mailto:kchu@rikidscount.org)

## ***RI Alliance for College and Career Readiness Annual Convening: Working Towards Equity Together***



**Providence, RI (December 6, 2019)** – More than 120 students, parents, teachers, policymakers, and community, higher education, and business leaders will gather on December 9, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to focus on the urgent need for equity in college and career readiness. Participants will collectively brainstorm how to work together to help all Rhode Island students gain the skills and knowledge, support, and financial resources they need to be successful in college and careers.

### **The Alliance – Mission and Founding Members**

The Rhode Island Alliance for College and Career Readiness was developed to raise awareness about the connection between college and career readiness, the success of individual students, and the economic stability of our state. The Alliance identifies and advocates for legislative and regulatory changes and budgetary investments needed to increase college and career readiness and to address racial, ethnic, and income disparities.

Founding members of The Alliance include Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, The College Crusade of Rhode Island, Young Voices, College Visions, The College Advising Corps at Brown University's Swearer Center, The NAACP – Providence Branch, and the Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University.

### **Working Toward Equity Together – A Convening for Collective Action**

“Although there has been growth in college and career readiness opportunities in Rhode Island, there continue to be gaps in both college credits and industry-recognized credentials earned by high school students by race, ethnicity, income, and special education and English/multilingual learner status,” said Paige Clausius Parks, Senior Policy Analyst at Rhode Island KIDS COUNT (and Coordinator of

the Alliance). “At this convening, attendees will listen to compelling presentations and engage in interactive discussions about how Rhode Island can achieve equitable access to advanced coursework, address financial barriers to college attendance and completion and how to ensure the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship addresses equity. **We will not be admiring the problem, but instead actively brainstorming solutions to work towards equity together.**”

The keynote speaker will be Steve Colón, CEO of [Bottom Line](#) and Board Vice President of [National College Access Network](#); and he will discuss *What It Really Takes to Achieve Equity in College Access and Success*. The event will feature PechaKucha Presentations on the following topics:

1. Equitable Access to College and Career Readiness Opportunities
2. Is Rhode Island Ready for a FAFSA High School Graduation Requirement?
3. Rhode Island Promise Scholarship

Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education at the Rhode Island Department of Education will then provide reflections. Please see page 3 for the complete agenda.

“To truly work towards a more equitable and accessible education future for young people it is imperative that when decisions are being made, those directly affected must lead the conversation,” said Marcela Betancur, Executive Director of the Latino Policy Institute. “Truth is, that while good intentions and policy knowledge are important, real life experience is critical to understand the complexities and intersectionality of underserved communities.”

## Agenda

<b>Welcome</b>	Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
<b>Overview of Rhode Island Alliance for College and Career Readiness</b>	Paige Clausius-Parks, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
<b>Introduction of Video &amp; Keynote Speaker</b>	Adriana Rodriguez, Young Voices
<b>Keynote Address</b>	Steve Colón, CEO of Bottomline, Board Vice President of National College Access Network
<b>Buffet &amp; Dessert</b>	
<b>PechaKucha Presentations and Table Discussions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable Access to College and Career Readiness Opportunities presented by Paige Clausius-Parks, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT</li> <li>• Is Rhode Island Ready for a FAFSA High School Graduation Requirement? Presented by Andrew Bramson, College Crusade of Rhode Island</li> <li>• Rhode Island Promise Scholarship presented by Paige Clausius-Parks and Andrew Bramson</li> </ul>	Moderated by Marcela Betancur, Latino Policy Institute
<b>Introduction of Commissioner</b>	Marcela Betancur, Latino Policy Institute
<b>Reflections</b>	Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education
<b>Question &amp; Answer</b>	Moderated by Jim Vincent, NAACP- Providence Branch
<b>Closing</b>	Paige Clausius-Parks, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT