

# Early Enrollment Program Newsletter

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## Financial Literacy: Growing Popularity in High Schools

### Office Staff

#### Associate Directors:

Marianne Gianfrancesco

Susan Poor

#### Program Secretary:

Jane Lindberg

### Office Information

#### Phone:

401-456-8857

#### Fax:

401-456-8188

#### Email:

eep@ric.edu

#### Webpage:

[www.ric.edu/eep](http://www.ric.edu/eep)

### Mailing Address:

Early Enrollment Program

Rhode Island College

600 Mount Pleasant Ave-  
nue



In the fall of 2012, Richard Garland, developed and introduced EEP Finance 230: Personal Finance at *North Kingstown High School* (see Newsletter #9 on EEP website for feature article). His course syllabus is now the model for Finance 230. Since the course inception, he has the largest number of students earning RIC credit for this course and the largest group ever using EVERFI, a “new media learning platform using the latest technology to bring complex financial concepts to life for today’s digital generation.” (EVERFI website). This platform was sponsored by People’s Credit Union and the RI State Treasurer’s office. During the first weekend of December, Rich attended a 2.5 day conference at Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. Applicants had to submit their rationale on the importance of teaching financial literacy and business responsibility. Over 270 teachers applied; 114 attended. The program focused on financial literacy, business management, entrepreneurship and economics. Rich left with a plethora of resources from the Knowledge@Wharton website and from the seminars and speakers. On Tuesday, February 24, 74 students were honored in a ceremony held at North Kingstown HS; representatives from the financial arena in RI commended the students for their financial acumen; of the 74 recipients 55 students are receiving EEP credit for their participation in the course.

On November 10, 2014, a team of students from *East Greenwich High School* met with state education Commissioner Deborah A. Gist and the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education to present their finding after eight month of research on financial training for high school students. As a result of EGHS students’ work, the council approved the first ever standards for financial literacy.

Their project began in February, 2014, with the guidance of Patricia Page, the students’ business teacher and Rhode Island’s 2014 Teacher of the Year. Patricia is currently an EEP teacher at East Greenwich High School offering Finance 230: Personal Finance and CIS 251: Computers in Management.

Students initially began looking at the connection between unemployment and education in Rhode Island, and eventually determined that financial training was missing in the education of high school students. Their Twitter campaign caught the attention of Commissioner Gist who corresponded and eventually met with students who subsequently created the state’s first set of standards for financial literacy. Six broad areas including saving money, using credit, investing and protecting against loss are covered in the standards.

On December 6, 2014, over 200 educators attend a conference on financial capability at Rhode Island College where high school and college students talked about the need and the relevance of financial literacy. Charlotte Palmer of East Greenwich stated that Personal Finance was “one of the best classes I’ve ever taken.” While this course is required in three school districts (Chariho, Westerly and Exeter-West Greenwich), others high school are offering it, as well. To date East Greenwich and North Kingstown are currently offering the course for EEP credit, with Cranston East and Cranston West to follow in September.

### ***New EEP Course at Mount Pleasant HS***

Dawn Marie Gianfrancesco has initiated a “first” at Mount Pleasant High School: an EEP Foundations of Education course. ***FND 150: Schooling in a Democratic Society*** is offered through the Teacher Academy at MPHS. Dawn wants her students to gain a deeper understanding of the evolution of education and that evolution’s impact on society and individuals. The course encourages students to gain an understanding of the diversity, common values, and social forces which impact education, in general, as well as students examining the impact on their own educational path. As the EEP instructor, Dawn looks to challenge her students by questioning assumptions and stereotypes that promote or encumber the democratic way of life, to help them gain a deeper understanding of the role of diversity in education, and to assist them in developing the skills that will make them effective, critical communicators.

The class, currently comprised of 11 young women, is alive as EEP students observe the behaviors of students and teachers from other classes, create and teach their own lessons, conduct “Action Research”, and analyze their findings in previous classes in the academy. Selections from the class texts are used as the basis for lively class discussions, debates, and presentations.

According to Dawn, she holds the long term goals of this course most dear: “to impart leadership qualities to our students so that they may apply their skills to **ALL** areas of their lives; to have students demonstrate pride in and respect for the diversity in their world, and to foster the creation of life long learners”. This is an exciting time for EEP and Mount Pleasant High School!

### ***EEP Accounting Instructor Honored***

EEP Accounting 201 instructor, Kelly Wilson of Lincoln High School, has received the prestigious 2014 RI Business Educator of the Year Award. Kelly graduated from URI with a bachelor’s degree in accounting and from Johnson and Wales University with a master’s degree in education.

Kelly has worked countless hours to develop and implement new and exciting programs for her department, and Accounting 201: Principals of Accounting I: Financial is one of the courses she has added to the department’s offerings.

Before her career in education, Kelly worked as a Certified Public Account and owned her own business. She is highly respected by her administration, colleagues and students for her enthusiastic commitment to business education.

EEP is proud to have Kelly among its list of highly accomplished instructors, and we send warmest congratulations to her.



**EDUCATION**— **Dr. Gerri August**, an associate professor in the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development, joined the faculty of Rhode Island College in 2005. She directs the Advanced Studies in Teaching and Learning graduate program and is on the faculty of the URI/RIC joint Ph.D. in education. In her current work with teachers and teacher candidates, she explores the structural leverages of privilege and power in the classroom.

**DANCE**— This is **Jessica Pearson's** first academic year at Rhode Island College serving as an assistant professor; she is teaching modern dance techniques, improvisation, and dance history. Her professional credentials include being a senior member of the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble in Denver, CO and holding a POST MFA Fellowship at the University of Utah. Currently, Jessica mentors student projects and is involved with the Rhode Island College/Central Falls Innovation Lab Partnership.

**MATHEMATICS**—**Dr. Peter Andreozzi** has been associated with Rhode Island College in several different ways. In 1969 he earned an MAT in mathematics from the college. Then, after 38 years of service in public education as a teacher and administrator in MA and RI, he returned to RIC as a member of the Mathematics and the Elementary Education Departments. He is credited with creating the Certificate of Graduate Studies for pre-K to grade 8 teachers in mathematics. In addition, he has served as a Mathematics Specialist at the RI Department of Education.

**MODERN LANGUAGES**— **Dr. Chiara Falangola** is Italian by birth; she was raised in Rome. She noted that from early on, in addition to her love for her native language and culture, she had a passion for French literature and culture. She has studied and taught in France and Canada and says that she “is now happy to work at Rhode Island College”; it has been a very busy year for Dr. Falangola from teaching classes, meeting faculty and staff members, assuming the role of EEP Italian and French liaison, and “navigating RI roads during one of the worst winter’s on record!”.

**PSYCHOLOGY**— After receiving her Ph.D. in psychology from Fordham University in 1976, **Dr. Robin Montvilo** came to Rhode Island College for a one year appointment; “it has been the longest year on record”, says Robin! While teaching a full time load, she earned her BA in Nursing and continued her full time teaching career while working part time as an RN in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Women & Infants Hospital. She currently serves as a fellow in the RIC Center for Behavioral Health and Addiction Studies and as a board member for the RI Community for Addiction Recovery Efforts.

### **EEP Retirement during 2014–2015.....**

We extend our deepest appreciation to the fine EEP instructors who have worked as invaluable advocates and resources for EEP and for their students. These engaging instructors prepared students so well for the rigors of college work! Warmest thanks and good wishes for many fine adventures during retirement to:

**Al Crudale**/Warwick Veterans HS/Spanish 113 & 114

**Michelle Pratt**/Chariho HS/Spanish 113

**Karen Purtill**/Exeter-West Greenwich HS/ Math 117E

**Paula Serowik**/ East Providence HS/French 113

**Joan Seward**/St. Raphael Academy/History 118E

**Louise Oliviera**/Exeter-West Greenwich HS/Psychology 110 and On-Site Coordinator **Extraordinaire**

## Congratulations

**We are pleased to announce that the following teachers are among the newest EEP Instructors for 2014-2015:**

**Ballou, Dennis**/Scituate HS/  
Economics 200

**Bizier, David**/Cranston East HS/  
Finance 230

**Botsford-Milne, Catherine**/  
Attleboro HS/Chemistry 103

**Caiazza, Norma**/North Kingstown  
HS/Music 203

**Camputari, Deanna**/Central Falls  
HS/Dance 150

**Carvalho, Kayleigh**/The Greene  
School/English 118E

**Daniels, Diana**/Smithfield HS/  
Spanish 114

**Gianfrancesco, Michael**/North Prov-  
idence HS/English 113 & 118E

**Gianfrancesco, Dawn Marie**/Mount  
Pleasant HS/ FNED 150

**Hall, Emily**/St. Raphael Academy/  
Chemistry 103

**Lane, Sarah**/Lincoln HS/History 117E

**Lindley, Patricia**/St. Mary Academy  
Bay View/Math 117E

**Lonardo, Richard**/Cranston Career &  
Technical Center/Tech 216

**Matacia, Synora**/CharihoHS/Art 150

**New EEP Instructors cont.**

**Narcisi, Diane**/Cranston East HS/  
Finance 230

**Palumbo, Jessica**/Cranston West  
HS/Finance 230

**Pecoraro, John**/Chariho HS/  
Spanish 114

**Sagamang, Kathryn**/Chariho HS/  
Biology 111 & 112

**Silveira, Toni-Annette**/North  
Kingstown HS/ Music 225 and Music  
150

**Sullivan, Erin**/History 119E/  
Attleboro HS

**Weidner, Glenn**/Spanish 114 /  
Attleboro HS

**Xiarhos, Michael**/History 117E/  
Pilgrim HS

**We welcome the new EEP On-site Coordinators at the following high schools:**

**Gurspan, Richard**/Central HS

**King, Roberta**/ Shea HS

**We have three teachers who have been inactive in EEP but have joined the “active” ranks! WELCOME BACK...**

**Kristen Archambault**/Spanish 113  
Scituate HS

**Stephen Morrison**/Music 201/  
North Providence HS

**Beth Osterman** /Math 117E/  
Pilgrim HS

**Michael Werth**/Math 118E/ Cen-  
tral HS

We are most pleased to announce this year's winners of the Early Enrollment Program's Annual Scholarship, awarded to EEP students who will be attending Rhode Island College. We selected three recipients this year whose qualifications were very impressive! These students will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship renewable for three additional years provided they maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average at the end of each academic year.

The recipients are:

***Katherine Emily Haley, Scituate High School***

***Mary E. Mennucci, Saint Raphael Academy***

***Efe-oghene S. Ochuko-Kivie, Paul Cuffee Upper School***

