

# <sup>2</sup> Greetings From the RIIL

### DEAR FRIENDS,

Somewhere along the winding road in the long history of interscholastic athletics, gradual change has brought our **product** to a crossroads. Somewhere along the way, some of the allure and excitement associated with high school sports for many years seems to have faded.

Perhaps in this crazy society - it's the many options available to today's young people, both in and out of athletics. Where once school sports and a letter jacket were the thing, now it's just another activity competing with travel programs, virtual reality games, nonstop cable sports coverage and social media competing to fill free time.

Maybe it's parents, chasing the misguided somewhat unrealistic dream of athletic scholarships for their children and in the process banking on the promises of youth coaches' intent on building their pocket books and reputations over building fundamentals and teamwork in kids.

It could be the stories from professional and collegiate levels / warning of long-range effects of concussions and other sports injuries / that are causing fear in many parents who are making athletic participation decisions for their children.

And what of respect for authority? Each year We are losing the keepers of our games - the contest officials. People see the abuse on these men and women / who give far more of their time than they are compensated for and figure it can't be worth it to become an official, or to continue.

Ultimately, how we got here no longer matters. It's what we do next. The focus for each year is to define and defend educational athletics. We know that educational athletics is the best option.

The RIIL will continue as it has done since 1899 to promote:

- Risk minimization / protect and promote student health
- To serve and support our high school athlete school programs
- To define and defend educational athletics
- To certify, educate and train our coaches
- To recruit and retain the best officials
- To support multi-sport participation
- The benefits of unified sports and acceptance of all students

#### Thomas A. Mezzanotte

*Executive Director Rhode Island Interscholastic League* 

As Chairman of the Principals' Committee on Athletics (PCOA), I am proud to serve along with Vice-Chair Mr. Sean Kelly and the other members of the committee representing the member schools and affiliated groups of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL). The PCOA is the governing body of the RIIL and its members are committed to providing the students of Rhode Island with high quality education based athletics. We truly believe in the RIIL's motto, "The Purest Form of Sport."

Student athletes reap the benefits of education based athletics each day. Whether developing leadership skills, learning how to overcome adversity or developing lifelong healthy habits, the benefits of education based athletics are clear. We believe that some of the most important life lessons are learned on the high school playing field.

Through the PCOA's guidance and leadership, the RIIL is a dynamic organization that keeps the interest of the student athlete at the heart of its decision making process. RIIL Executive Director Mr. Thomas Mezzanotte; Assistant Executive Director Mr. Michael Lunney and the talented office staff work diligently every day to ensure the success of the League. Along with Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mezzanotte and Mr. Lunney, I welcome your feedback and input.

#### Kevin J. McNamara

Chairman, Principals' Committee on Athletics Principal, Lincoln High School



Thomas A. Mezzanotte Executive Director, RIIL



Kevin J. McNamara Chairman, Principals' Committee on Athletics

# **RIIL Historical Facts**

- March 9, 1899 The Interscholastic League was born. (117 years in existence)
  - •It included 7 members: Cranston, Hope St., East Prov., Classical, English, Manual Training, Pawt.
- First recognized sport Baseball (March 1899)
  •1<sup>st</sup> champion Classical 1899
- Football was approved in Sept 1899
  - •1<sup>st</sup> game Oct 13, 1899 (EP-5 / Cranston-0) •Spalding Football Rules were adopted •Game officials were approved by team managers
  - •1<sup>st</sup> Football Champion East Providence
- 1899 the sports of basketball and ice hockey were postponed
- Interscholastic league adopted the sport of polo in January 1900
  - •1<sup>st</sup> polo championship Hope St. High School
- Feb. 1900 Eligibility Rules were adopted
  - •No professionals were allowed to participate •The Board of Directors would investigate all eligibility matters
  - •Five years of eligibility for each player •There was a transfer rule
  - •Penalty for violations was forfeiture
  - Feb. 1900 Field Day was approved (Track & Field)
- •May 1900 Classical was the 1<sup>st</sup> field Day winner
- 1901 All schools had to establish an Eligibility List
- Dec. 1902 Ice Hockey was approved
  - •1903- 1<sup>st</sup> Hockey Champion was Hope St. High School

- March 1903 LaSalle Academy applied for admission to the League Denied!
- Initial League Issues:
  - Uneven competition
  - •Lack of eligibility standards
  - •Organization
  - •Spectator riots, mob scenes....
  - •Few suitable playing surfaces
  - •No professional preparation for coaches
  - •Officials were usually chosen from the crowd •If the home team lost – the visiting team was
    - stoned out of town

In 1928 a group of high school principals became interested in forming an organization which would control and administer athletics as one of its objectives. In 1932 the RI Secondary School Principals' Association was organized. It defined its objectives as follows:

Its object shall be to raise the standards of the secondary schools of RI and to advance the professional interests of the members of this association. Committees were established:

- 1. RI Honor Society
- 2. Relations with the Office of the RI State Dir of Education 3. Athletics

March 1932 the Interscholastic league was formally organized as it is today. It was organized to meet the expressed needs of high schools for a functional sports program that would be governed by a committee of principals.

Today the RI Interscholastic League is governed by the Principals' Committee on Athletics, and its 71 member schools.

# Year In Review

### **NEW HOME OF THE RIIL**

The RIIL purchased and successfully moved to a new office that will permanently house the RIIL. This new office will enable the RIIL to continue to hold meetings and provide the services necessary to meet the needs of all member schools.

### TECHNOLOGY

In cooperation with the RI Athletic Administrators Association, the RIIL has forged a partnership with rSchools Today to provide an essential mobile computer management system for our schools and our fans. To ensure a smooth transition, the RIIL has provided a number of training sessions for all Athletic Directors. The proposed roll out will be August 2017.

### **COACHES EDUCATION**

The RIIL has implemented a comprehensive certification process for all athletic coaches hired after January 1, 2012. This certification process which incorporates elements of the NFHS Coaches Ed program will help athletic coaches meet the significant challenges they face each day. This process, which must be renewed every five years, will include a combination of in-house and NFHS online courses approved by the RIIL. To assist, we are organizing an annual conference for new and grandfathered coaches to fulfill their certification obligations. In addition, the conference will offer other coaches and athletic directors the opportunity to address numerous sport-related issues.

During the 2016-2017 school year, we held our pre-season coach's rules interpretation meetings. Through these general meetings coaches were able to hear presentations regarding: Heat Acclimatization, Concussions, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest. In addition, these meetings provided opportunities for all coaches to review current sport rules and discuss other related RIIL issues.

New NFHS courses have been added:

Umpiring Softball

Officiating Basketball

Interscholastic Officiating

# Year In Review

### **UNIFIED SPORTS**

Unified Sports® in RIIL member schools, creates an inclusive environment where everyone benefits. Unified Sports® combines people with intellectual disabilities (called athletes) and without intellectual disabilities (called partners) on sports teams for training and competition. Special education students experience new social opportunities and make new friends they may not have otherwise. Their non-disabled peers learn valuable lessons of character development and may serve as mentors. Many parents and siblings also find that Unified Sports® offers a new way to spend time together and meet other families.

Using sports to help break down barriers that have historically kept people apart, Unified Sports® promotes meaningful inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities in the community. In fact, 93% of partners say they gained a better understanding of their teammates through Unified Sports®.

### **RIIL SPORTS MEDIA**

The RIIL partnered with the NFHS to stream tournament events and promote a school broadcast program. Presently, there are a number of schools who are participating. In addition, the RIIL agreement with PlayOn (NFHS Network) has been extended another five years to 2020. The NFHS Network offers a new price model to fans subscribing at the low price of \$9.95 per month.

We continue to upgrade and improve the RIIL.org website. New homepage, online statistics in the sports of football, hockey, baseball, soccer, and basketball have been added. In addition, we have brought Carolyn Thornton, an experienced journalist, to the RIIL as Director of Multimedia Content to coordinate and oversee the RIIL Facebook Page, Twitter and Blog. Carolyn worked with high school students as junior journalists, teaching them about a career as a professional journalist, and covering more RIIL events from around the state throughout the year.

In addition, the NFHS Network is offering schools a new automated sport production product—Pixellot. This product is for schools that have limited broadcasting resources (people, equipment, time). This new hardware/software solution will enable schools to automate production of live events.

### STUDENT/TEAM RECOGNITION

We continue with the recognition programs of the RIIL "Student Athlete of the Month" and "Team of the Week." Outstanding Students and Amazing Team Accomplishments are recognized and publicized through the media. In addition, "Student Athletes of the Month," "Coach of the Year," "Athletic Director of the Year," "RI Spirit of Sport," "RI Heart of the Arts," "Team of the Year," "Administrator of the Year," "RI Student Advisory Board Senior Members" and "RI National Guard" recipients were honored at our annual luncheon. The overall 2017 Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year were selected and each received a \$1,000 scholarship.

- Student Athletes of the Month: September: Antonio Rua, Burrillville and Kyla Shea, Portsmouth; October: Benjamin Drezek, Cumberland and Noelle Cooke, Barrington; November: Trevante Jones, St. Raphael and Jessica Taing, Cranston East; December: Joshua Correia, Woonsocket and Julia Laquerre, Mount St. Charles; January: Kevin Fofanah, Classical and Madison Lyman, Middletown; February: Matt Fyrer, Cranston West and Finnian Duncan, Narragansett; March: Donatien Djero, Central and Madison Matatall, Mount St. Charles.
- 2017 Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year Winners: Trevante Jones, *St. Raphael Academy* and Noelle Cooke, *Barrington High School.*
- Coach of the Year—Male: Michael Shunney, *West Warwick High School, Girls Volleyball* Coach of the Year—Female: Kelly Martin, *La Salle Academy, Cross Country*
- Athletic Director of the Year: Terry Lynch, South Kingstown High School
- RI Spirit of Sport: Daniel Ayriyan, Smithfield High School
- RI Heart of the Arts: Lindsay Anne Daugherty, Barrington High School
- Team of the Year: Cumberland High School, Wrestling
- Administrator of the Year: Sean Kelly, Principal, Cranston West High School/Asst. Chair, Principals' Committee on Athletics
- **RI Student Advisory Board Senior Members**: Sara Anoushian, *North Kingstown*; Nicole Bryant, *Ponaganset*; Joseph D'Antonio, *Bishop Hendricken*; Trevante Jones, *St. Raphael and* Seraphina Negash, *Classical*
- **RI National Guard Adjutant General Awards**: Dayvon Patino Cyler, *Tolman High School and* Nicholas Beauregard White, *Lincoln High School*

### NFHS NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (NSLS) AND NEW ENGLAND STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (NESLC)

Four RIIL student athletes, chaperoned by RIIL Assistant Executive Director Michael Lunney, headed to Indianapolis, IN July 17 -19 to represent RI at the NFHS National Student Leadership Summit. On July 25-28, twenty-six student athletes from RIIL members schools across the state attended the 7th Annual New England Student Leadership Conference held at Worcester State University, Worcester, MA. (*Read more about the conferences on pages 10 & 11...*)

### SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Promoted and encouraged ways of minimizing risk in all sports (Concussion Management, Heat Acclimatization, Overuse Injuries, Limiting "contact" in collision sports, the use of appropriate pre-participation physicals for all athletes, and urging all school athletic teams to have access to certified athletic trainers).

### STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

The RIIL Student Advisory Board met throughout the year to discuss interscholastic initiatives and implementation of this year's statewide community service program – Peanut Butter Express. Through the efforts of the Student Advisory Board this project was a great success and collected 40,125 ounces of peanut butter for the RI Food Bank. The Johnston High School was recognized as the school contributing the most peanut butter.

Once again RI students will be attending the New England Student Leadership Conference. New members of the RIIL Student Advisory Board and Student Ambassadors will be selected from those attending this conference. In addition, the RIIL will be sending four Student Advisory Board students to the NFHS National Student Leadership Summit in Indianapolis, IN.

### **RIIL HALL OF FAME/OUTSTANDING SERVICE**

On October 26, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI, fourteen individuals were inducted into the 14th Class of the RIIL Hall of Fame. Also recognized was the recipient of the 2016 State Award for Outstanding Service from the NFHS and RIIL (*see page 10*).

### **RIIL/NFHS-RECRUITING SPORT OFFICIALS PROGRAM**

Working cooperatively, the RIIL and the NFHS publicized and encouraged individuals to become high school sport officials. Through this initiative, twenty-five (25) responded to our requests and these names were forwarded to local official organizations.

### **PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS**

The RIIL Principals' Committee on Athletics approved and welcomed the following new members:

Tom Barbieri-Principal, Cranston West High School

Gerry Habershaw—Principal, Pilgrim High School

- Approved the following Rule Revisions:
  - Article 3, Section 1—Assumption of Risk
  - Article 3, Section 4—Academic Policy
  - Article 11, Media Credential Policy/NFHS Network Policy
  - Article 13 Coaching Requirements

- Michaela Keegan—Principal, Blackstone Valley Prep Philip Solomon—Principal, West Warwick High School
- Article 19 Football
- Article 24 Boys & Girls Soccer
- Article 28/29 Boys & Girls Track and Field
- Approved the inclusion of teams from Moses Brown, Wheeler, Providence Country Day and The Lincoln School.
- Approved a regulation mandating that all sport officials become members of the NFHS Officials Association.

### "MY REASON WHY" CAMPAIGN

RIIL Student Athletes contributed their "Reasons Why" they participate in high school sports. This was a National Campaign to promote and recognize the values of high school sports.

### **RIIL (NEWBOLD) SPORTSMANSHIP/LEADERSHIP GRANTS TO SCHOOLS**

Provided nearly \$8,000 to schools to support sportsmanship and leadership opportunities for student athletes.

### THE NFHS SUMMER CONFERENCE IN PROVIDENCE

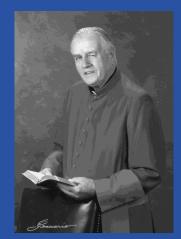
Over 1,100 High School State Association staff, Board of Directors, and their families attended the 98th NFHS Summer Meeting hosted by the RIIL. This was the first ever NFHS National meeting held in Providence.







# History



Msgr. Robert C. Newbold Executive Director, RIIL 1969-1994



Richard B. Lynch Executive Director, RIIL 1994-2004

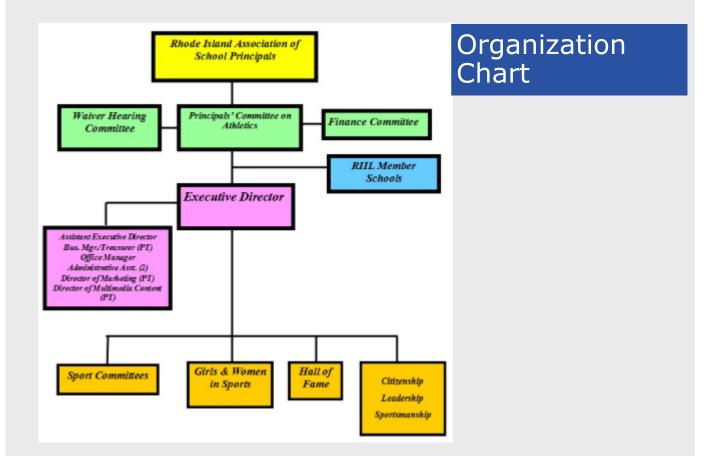


Thomas A. Mezzanotte Executive Director, RIIL 2004-Present

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League was established in 1899. It is a voluntary, private, incorporated, non-profit organization of principals who pledge their high schools and participants to follow the Rules and Regulations of the League.

There are sixty (60) public, private, and parochial high schools that make up the membership. These schools sponsor athletic activities in twenty-eight (28) sports. Over twenty thousand (20,000) young men and women compete annually in thousands of competitions.

The purpose of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League is to supervise and administer the athletic programs, contests, schedules and matters related to participating schools in the state of Rhode Island.



# Governing Process of the RIIL

The legislative body of the League is the *Principals' Committee on Athletics*, which consists of principals/assistant principals of the sixty (60) member high schools. The Committee meets regularly. All meetings are open to the public and anyone who wishes may attend.

Standing Committees are appointed by the Chairperson of the Principals' Committee on Athletics with the approval of the Principals' Committee on Athletics. Standing Committees are established for each sport. Others are established to address issues of general concern to the RIIL membership and to plan programs/activities for the members.

Membership on standing committees is open to superintendents, school administrators, athletic directors, coaches, game officials, and physicians. Recommendations are made by these committees to help the Principals' Committee on Athletics set rules and regulations and to provide programs for its schools.

The following administrators served on the Principals' Committee on Athletics during the 2016-2017 school year:

Kevin J. McNamara, Chairperson Principal, Lincoln High School Sean Kelly, Assistant Chairperson Cranston East High School

Gerald Habershaw, Principal, Pilgrim High School
Carnell Henderson, Principal, Woonsocket High School
Donald J. Kavanagh, Principal, La Salle Academy
Tom Marcello, RIIAAA/Athletic Director, Ponaganset High School
Philip Solomon, Principal, West Warwick High School
Daniel F. Warner, Principal, Narragansett High School
Michael Whaley, Ed.D., Principal, Burrillville High School

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the members of the PCOA for their dedication, compassion and loyalty to student athletes and the Mission of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. In addition, I would like to acknowledge our Committee Chair, Mr. Kevin McNamara, Principal of Lincoln High School, and Assistant Chair Mr. Sean Kelly, Principal of Cranston East High School for their leadership and counsel. Throughout the past year they have served with distinction on numerous committees and dedicated countless hours to many important League matters.

The RIIL and the Principals' Committee on Athletics are deeply grateful to the RI Association of School Principals, the RI Athletic Administrators Association, and the RI School Superintendents Association for their continued support of its membership. Without the strong support of the principals and athletic administrators of our member schools, the Rhode Island Interscholastic League would not enjoy the level of success that presently exists.

As Executive Director, I would like to acknowledge and express my appreciation to Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director, for his cooperation, support and efforts on behalf of the League and its student athletes. I would also like to thank Donna Kane, Director of Finance; Gail Lepore, Office Manager; Susana Borges and Julie Mancini, Administrative Assistants; Tracy Quarella, Director of Marketing and Carolyn Thornton, Director of Multimedia Content for the important role they play in the success of the League.



# Services to Member Schools

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League is a service organization providing its member schools with publications, training opportunities, recognition programs, tournaments, rules interpretation meetings, and other services that assist in the administration of interscholastic sports.

• Athletic Rules and Regulations Enforces the by-laws and regulations for the RIIL.

#### Recognition

The League sponsors the RIIL Hall of Fame for the most distinguished individuals involved in high school athletics.

#### RIIL Luncheon

The RIIL recognizes and congratulates the accomplishments of numerous athletes, teams, coaches, Athletic Directors and administrators.

### • Arbiter Pay Program

Through the Arbiter Ref Pay Program, the RIIL will streamline, improve and assist school Athletic Directors and Business Offices in the assignment and payment of game officials.

#### Computer Management Program

Tool that will upgrade and improve information for all RIIL fans. In addition, it will streamline all RIIL management functions for school Athletic Directors and coaches.

### • RIIL Grants

The RIIL Foundation was created to serve the interests of student athletes by awarding grants in the areas of character, education, sportsmanship and leadership.

#### • **RIIL/NFHS Network**

The heart of the RIIL/NFHS Network primarily consists of the season-ending RIIL Sport Tournaments. The RIIL/NFHS Network has produced internet broadcasts for most sports during this past three years of operation.

While high school state associations like the RIIL provide an immense potential for content, there are nearly 20,000 member high schools coast-to-coast who now have the opportunity to broadcast their own school specific content. It is this local content through the School Broadcasting Program that gives the network its legs. The NFHS Network School Broadcasting Program gives all of our schools and communities the opportunity to highlight our programs, our fans and our athletes. It is for all these reasons that I encourage every Rhode Island high school to become part of this great opportunity.

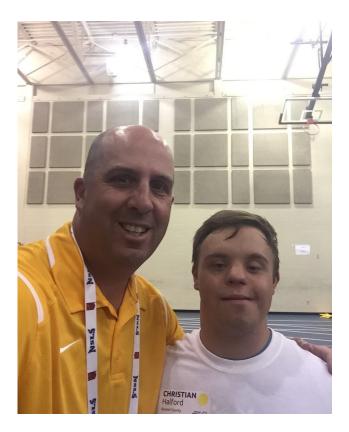
### • Support the Needs of the RIIAAA

#### Tournaments

- The League supervises and administers state tournaments in 29 athletic events for its member schools.
- Assists the media outlets statewide in their coverage of high school sports.
- Provides accident insurance for every student, coach, and official that participates in a league-sponsored post season activity.

### • Student Leadership Conferences

The League sponsors numerous opportunities for student athletes to take part in an assortment of leadership and sportsmanship activities such as the New England Student Leadership Conference (NESLC) and NFHS National Student Leadership Summit (NSLS).



# Awards and Conferences

### RIIL STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR WINNERS Presented by. SHOWCASE



A senior at Barrington High School, **Noelle Cooke** has demonstrated great leadership and sportsmanship throughout her high school career and is currently Captain of the Girls' Volleyball Team and East Bay Row Team. An active member of her school and community, Noelle serves as Treasurer of the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and Bayouth Club. Noelle maintains a 4.1665 in scale of 4.3 Scholar Athlete; chosen as one of three female scholar athletes from Barrington High and she was presented with the Smith Book Award "in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and leadership." She is a member of the National Honor Society and has received Highest Honors.



A senior at St. Raphael Academy, **Trevante Jones**, participates in Football and Boys' Basketball. He was captain of the Football and Boys' Basketball teams. An active member of his school and community, Tre, helps at local food pantries and La Sallian Youth. This past year, he attended the Student Leadership Workshop and the Student Leadership Conference sponsored by the RIIL. He is a member of RIIL Student Advisory Board and an honor roll student.

#### HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2016/ OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Introducing the14th class to be inducted into the RIIL High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

(Seated L-R) Athlete: Kim Zifcak-White; Athlete/RIIL Journalist: Carolyn Thornton Iannuccilli; Athlete: Sara Fabrizio; Coach/Admin: Elizabeth "Betty" Marquis; Athlete: Mrs. Paula Zifcak (representing her husband, Gerald Zifcak); Journalist/Media: Bob Leddy; Athlete: Charles Edward Gibbons

(Standing L-R) Athlete/Coach/Admin: Robert "Bob" Cavanagh; Athlete/Coach/Admin: Sue Reposa; Also honored the 2016 State Award for Outstanding Service recipient: Rick Marshall for his dedication and support of RIIL Track; Official/Admin: Keith Lawton; RIIL Webmaster/Designer: Craig Blanchard; Athlete: Jo-Ann D'Alessandro; RIIL Admin: Donald D. Gainey, Ed.D; Athlete: Bryan Berard



### NFHS NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



"RIIL students come away from 2017 National Student Leadership Summit empowered and inspired"

Accompanied by RI Interscholastic League Assistant Executive Director Mike Lunney, RIIL Student Advisory Board members Max Blane, Lauren Civetti, Kendall Duprey and Katie Mullaney attended the July 2017 NFHS National Student Leadership Summit in Indianapolis.

Hosted by the National Federation of State High School Associations, the goal of the three-day summit was to develop the student-athletes' "understanding of positive leadership and to be aware of the privilege and power of their influence in their school, community and state."

Former NFL player C.L. "Shep" Shepard, founder of Keep The Change Inc., set the tone for the week. Growing up in poverty as one of 15 children in a single-parent home, Shepard spoke to the teens about making "the decision to succeed" regardless of the obstacles in one's life.

"I was extremely pleased with the group of student ambassadors this year," NSLS director and NFHS director of sports and student services Elliot Hopkins told NFHS News. "These young people were really on top of their games and very established. I was stunned at the level of maturity and self-awareness these students had."

-Article by Carolyn Thornton, RIIL Director of Multimedia Content



#### **NEW ENGLAND STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**



Two dozen high school student-athletes from Rhode Island attended the seventh annual New England Student Leadership Conference, held July 2017 at Worcester State University.

In addition to networking with other teens from Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York at the overnight conference, they spent four days listening to inspirational guest speakers, participating in workshops and group discussions and taking

part in a community service project.

Rachel Finn, who will be a senior at North Smithfield High School this fall, took part in the New England Student Leadership Conference for the first time this summer and says it topped any other leadership conference she has ever attended.

NESLC17 was an amazing experience," said Finn, a member of the Lady Northmen's soccer and basketball teams. "I learned everything that makes up a great person and a great teammate and that is something important that needs to be shared with everyone in our respective schools and communities.

"Some of the things we learned were respect, perspective, community service, teamwork, and many others. We learned that good sportsmanship is key to the development of young people's minds and that through teamwork and working together goals can be achieved at a higher quality and quantity. We did many team building activities with our breakout groups and those activities can be taken back to everyone's schools and teams."

**RIIL attendees:** Abigail Foster, Barrington; David Hanna, Exeter/West Greenwich; Lily Poor, La Salle; Katherine Gannon, La Salle; Elena Rouse, La Salle; Anastasia Harris, La Salle; Zach Burke, Mt. Hope; Erynn Field, North Kingstown; Theresa Gilmartin, North Kingstown; McKensie Lennon, North Kingstown; Fiona Eves, North Kingstown; Sydney Chabot, North Kingstown; Rachel Finn, North Smithfield; Nathan Lemoine, North Smithfield; Adam Blakemore, North Smithfield; Elise Dezotell, Bay View; Grace Pelletier, Bay View; Melina Cabral, Bay View; Nicholas Allienello, St. Raphael; Bryce Gillis, St. Raphael; Shannon McCarnish, Toll Gate; Olivia Bush, Wheeler; Atticus Duncan, Narragansett and Maxwell Moskala, Mt. Hope.

-Article by Carolyn Thornton, RIIL Director of Multimedia Content





# **Mission Statement**



The mission of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League is to provide its member schools governance, leadership and support for interscholastic athletics which gives student athletes opportunities to compete in an environment that stresses education, sportsmanship, integrity and safety.

### **Core Values**

### We Believe

- Athletics is an integral part of education in our schools;
- Interscholastic athletics is a privilege that enhances the education of students;
- Leadership, responsibility, sportsmanship and scholarship are essential parts of athletics;
- Athletics is an enjoyable experience which fosters valuable life lessons;
- All member schools have the opportunity to be represented and are accountable to the standards of the RIIL;
- Fostering a professional relationship among its colleagues is a responsibility of the RIIL.

### **Vision Statement**

The RIIL is an organization with high standards for its member schools, student athletes, and constituencies. Through professional collegiality the League advocates and promotes the value of interscholastic athletics. The League provides athletic experiences that enable student athletes to reach their highest level of academic and athletic potential and prepares them to become responsible citizens.



Rhode Island Interscholastic League Building #3, Suites 7 & 8, Warwick, RI 02886 Email: info@riil.org; | Phone: (401) 272-9844 | Fax: (401) 272-9838 | www.riil.org