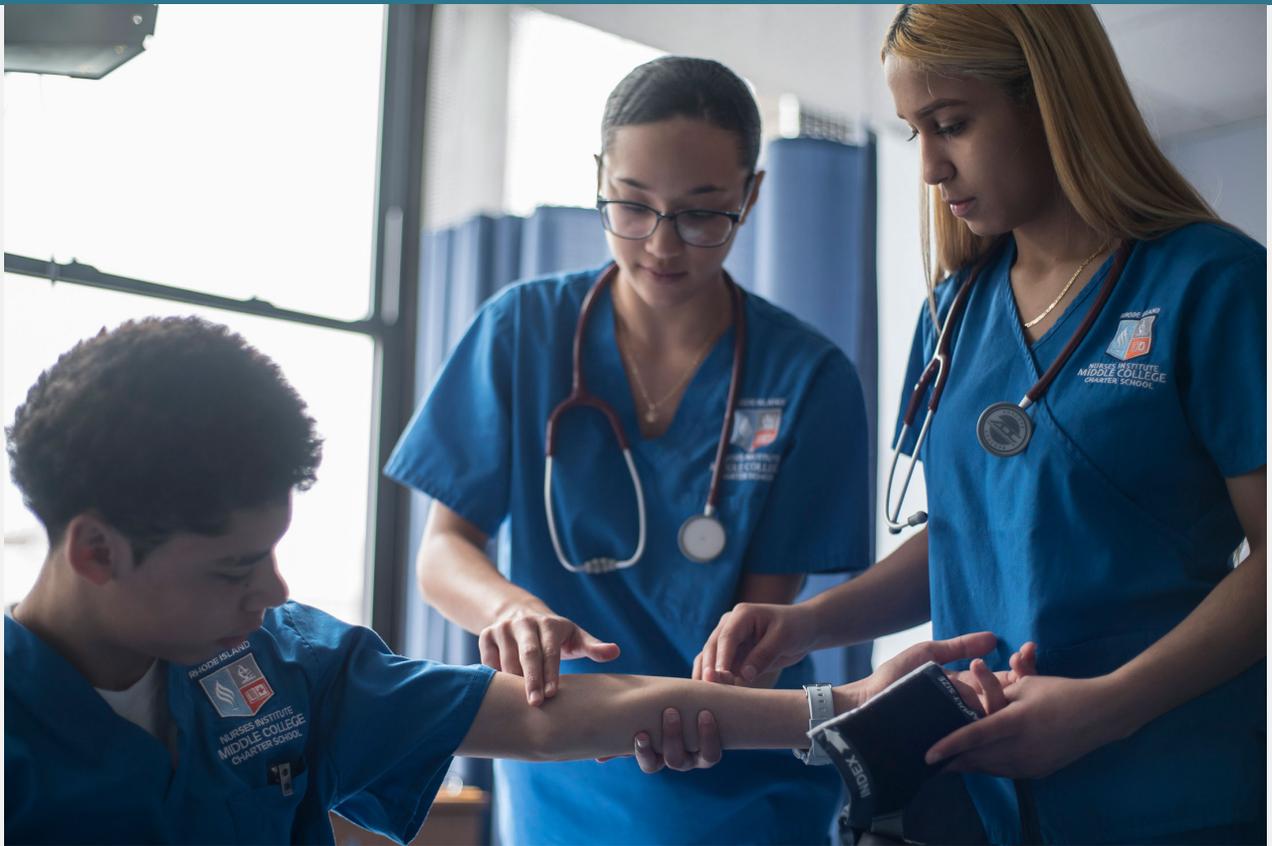




RHODE ISLAND  
**NURSES INSTITUTE  
MIDDLE COLLEGE**  
CHARTER SCHOOL



---

Por favor haga click en este enlace para leer la traducción en español

---

**RINI Principal's Update - May 21, 2021**

**RINI UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES**

**May 25, 2021: RINI Middle College Family Resume Building Workshop  
Session 1**

**May 27, 2021:** RINI Middle College Family Resume Building Workshop  
Session 2

**May 31, 2021:** Memorial Day (No School)

### **COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT:**

Reality is sinking in, slowly. Our 12th grade students will be embarking on new journeys; heading to college and the uncharted world, soon.

Reality means letting go of normalized rituals, saying goodbye to the nuances of everyday life, and welcoming the inevitability of change. In the spirit of change, each week we will be featuring our graduating seniors and their next phase of this journey.

### **COMMUNITY SALUTE OF THE WEEK:**

## **RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE**



**Aaliyah Roderick**



**Major- Nursing**

Congratulations, Aaliyah, the RINI School community is proud of you and your accomplishments!

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:



**Welcome to Community Spotlight,** where we highlight and celebrate members of RINI School Community. This week we are excited to introduce College and Career Guidance Counselor [Joanne Debrah](#)

**Describe your role as a College & Career Guidance Counselor.** Ironically enough, I feel like a driving instructor. I know the rules, I can advise and help them navigate the road but at the end of the day I am in the passenger seat. Being a college and career guidance counselor is not a role I take lightly. I have friends who still cringe when they recall conversations with their guidance counselor. They felt unheard, underestimated and discouraged.

My experience was quite different. I was gifted with a guidance counselor who took the time to get to know me. She spent time with me and learned what was important to me. I did not realize it at the time but she was building rapport with me. When she challenged me to step out of my comfort zone when it came to selecting colleges, I was willing to trust her judgment. I had the final say but the work that happened beforehand was done in partnership.

I want to change the narrative attached to school counseling. My experience should be the norm. It starts with acknowledging the value our scholars enter the doors of our schools with. It was done for me and it is my turn to do the same for others.

**What do you enjoy about working in a school?** The scholars, the scholars and the SCHOLARS! Moment of transparency, I completed my undergraduate and graduate degrees while serving at YouthBuild Providence. Along the way, my scholars proved to be my favorite professors. Sitting in a classroom learning about pedagogical theories and best practices is necessary; there is no way around it. However, the lessons I learned in the trenches were the ones that shaped me.

Most people entering the world of education enjoy helping others and focus on building transformative relationships that change the trajectory of the learners in front of them. I stay because of this dynamic reciprocal exchange that takes place with every learner I am blessed to meet. From my high achieving scholars to the ones that force me to dig a little deeper into my toolkit, I am growing as an educator. Why be a Sage on stage when you can be a thought partner?

**What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing today's education system?** The educational system was not designed for all learners. Operating under this fallacy that it was is harmful. Children are being asked to navigate a system that does not acknowledge the invisible backpacks they carry which are filled with rich culture, an array of experiences and talents that often go overlooked or untapped because they do not align with the institutional standards.

It is exciting to see DEI work that is happening in many schools but the system itself needs to name the isms of society that feed the root of inequity. I recognize the naming part is difficult because it is attached to pain. Consequently, poorly treated wounds can become infected. We have to do the work, not just apply a bandaid.

### **What is the greatest success you've had in your role this year?**

What genius decides to join a high school guidance team in the midst of March Madness? That would be me! I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our amazing seniors who have been thriving and achieving during a pandemic. I have also started building bridges with the following organizations: College Visions, College Crusaders, ARISE and Rhode Island Nursing Education Center. These particular organizations were selected in direct alignment with the RINI mission so that our underclassmen have access to mentors, resources, experiences and knowledge they can take with them to college and beyond.

### **What advice would you give to families currently navigating the social and health climate we are in?**

The pandemic forced us all to stop. While we were home we were inundated with information which felt overwhelming at times but gifted with the time to process what we were witnessing. Yes, we watched and continue to watch social unrest unfold before our eyes but in the midst of it all new partnerships are being fostered, grace and empathy have become more than just words and people are starting to listen to one another. My advice to families is to remember the pause, especially when working through difficult subject matter. Speak your truth, listen to gain understanding and do not be afraid to ask clarifying questions.

### **SENIORS: LET'S GET READY FOR GRADUATION!**

Please complete these items during this month, so we can begin putting together the slideshow for senior awards night.

1. Start creating your personal slide that will be shown at awards night. The template and directions are below - all you need to do is make a copy, personalize, and send it to [kgaspar@rinimc.org](mailto:kgaspar@rinimc.org).

[Awards Night Personal Slide Template](#)

2. Vote for your classmates! (voting closes in two weeks FYI).

[Class of 2021 Superlatives Form](#)

3. Send in pictures of your RINI experience - we want everyone to be included! Pictures of you all as a group will be helpful.

[Class of 2021 RINI Experience Pictures](#)

## **COLLEGE AND CAREER UPDATES:**

[PrepareRI Ambassador Team](#) is excited to announce the launch of monthly themed webinars, intended to increase awareness about the amazing opportunities available to best support students' college and career pathways. Please find a list of monthly webinar topics below:

- May: Saving Money in College with PrepareRI
- June: Work-Based Learning
- July: PrepareRI Alums – Where are they now?

You can register for the webinars [here](#). If you have questions about the monthly webinar series, please contact Wendy Wallace, at [wendy.wallace@ride.ri.gov](mailto:wendy.wallace@ride.ri.gov).

## **STUDENT OPPORTUNITY:**

**Registration for ACN Courses Extended until June 11:** The [ACN](#) is a RIDE initiative that allows students to take advantage of supplemental coursework outside of the traditional school day at no cost to a district or student. There are five different types of courses available on the ACN: Enrichment, Work-based learning, Dual enrollment, Advanced Placement, and Career Credential courses. All students in Rhode Island can participate in these opportunities.

Pre-registration is now open for Summer 2021 and AY2021-2022! The pre-registration window has been extended to Friday, June 11. Many new course offerings have been added as a result of additional stimulus funding. Students and families can visit [EnrollRI](#) to browse course offerings. For questions and support, please let students and families know about the upcoming Family Engagement Session hosted by the ACN team (details below) or email [acn@ride.ri.gov](mailto:acn@ride.ri.gov)

**Knowledge For College Scholarship - Now Available Year Round!** Starting May 1, 2021, the Knowledge for College Scholarship drawing will be held year-round. We are no longer taking the summer months off. Additionally, we are increasing the number of \$2,000 winners to 4 each month. Set those reminders in your cell phones so you don't miss out on any chances to win! The only way to win is to enter.

Increasing to 4 winners each month - Year Round!

- Register on our website [here](#)
- Read a brief financial literacy scenario and answer 3 multiple choice questions (this scholarship requires no essay!)
- Hit submit and receive confirmation of entry
- Come back each month to increase your chances of winning

## **FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE**

### **Daily Wellness Screening On Skyward**

If your child is coming into the school building they must do the Wellness Screening on Skyward before entering the building. It is easiest to complete on a smartphone by downloading the Skyward App.

COVID Vaccine is available in RI for everyone ages 16 and older. Sign up here for anyone in your household that is 16 or older.

### [COVID Vaccine Registration](#)

Fully vaccinated individuals (14 days after the final dose) do NOT have to:

- quarantine if they are a close contact of someone with COVID,
- quarantine if they travel out of the U.S.
- quarantine if they travel to a state with a >5% positivity rate
- wear a mask outdoors in small gatherings
- wear a mask indoors in small gatherings of people

While COVID numbers are better we still need to be cautious. Continue to:

Wear a mask

Wash your hands

Watch your distance

## **FROM THE SOCIAL WORKER'S OFFICE**

RINI Middle College acknowledges and recognizes how challenging the last

year has been given the COVID-19 Pandemic, violence and the many losses experienced. We want you to know that there are resources and help available. If you are concerned about your student's mental health please reach out to the Bilingual School Social Worker Ms. Pellegrino at [spellegrino@rinimc.org](mailto:spellegrino@rinimc.org) who has resources and information available. Please do not suffer in silence. If you are unsure or are having a hard time figuring out how to have difficult conversations with your student I can also give you some assistance with that. Do not hesitate to reach out for help.

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Available. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. [COVID-19 Funeral Assistance](#)

#### **WORKFORCE INFORMATION:**

Please contact Mrs. Wozniak at: [awozniak@rinimc.org](mailto:awozniak@rinimc.org) if you are interested in participating in community volunteer opportunities through the ZOOM platform to area residents in nursing facilities. Additional information can be found at: [RINI Workforce Development Office](#)

The 2021 Heart Walk is open! This year our walk will be a digital experience that joins our Southern New England and Southcoast Heart Walks. You can visit the registration page [HERE!](#) The experience will start in the beginning of May and will end with a virtual celebration on Sunday, June 6th on Facebook. Families are all welcome! This is a great way to get safely outdoors and start that healthy exercise we have been planning on all winter! Sign up now.

**The 2021 Heart Walk is open!** This year our walk will be a digital experience that joins our Southern New England and Southcoast Heart Walks. You can visit the registration page [HERE](#)! The experience will start in the beginning of May and will end with a virtual celebration on Sunday, June 6th on Facebook. Families are all welcome! This is a great way to get safely outdoors and start that healthy exercise we have been planning on all winter! Sign up now.

### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:**

**May is Mental Health Awareness Month!** Bradley Hospital is offering a timely training on **Suicide: Screening, Prevention, and Response.**

This workshop will be held on **Monday, May 24th from 1-3pm over Zoom** and will be facilitated by Kim Lafountain, a favorite of the MENTOR Rhode Island network.

Sign up now to secure your spot. You can register for the workshop by clicking on the date on the flyer or clicking [HERE](#)

### **Suicide Hotlines, Resources/ Chat Lines**

The Samaritans of Rhode Island 24/7

1-800-365-4044

[www.Samaritansri.org](http://www.Samaritansri.org)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline -24/7

1-800-273-8255/1 800-273-TALK

[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.com](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.com)

National Hopeline Network- 24/7

1-800-784-2433/1-800-SUICIDE

[www.hopeline.com](http://www.hopeline.com)

American Foundation fro Suicide Prevention

Call 800-273-8255 text TALK to 741741

### **Recorded Series:**

Talking with Teens: A Discussion about Mental Health [Watch Here](#)

Fostering Resilience in Children: The Role of the Family [Watch Here](#)

Youth Suicide Prevention, It's Everyone's Business: What Parents Need to Know [Watch Here](#)

**Rent Relief Available for Rhode Islanders:** Rhode Island has received \$200 million in rent relief funds from the federal [Emergency Rental Assistance \(ERA\) Program](#). This program will provide rental and utility relief payments to help eligible renters maintain housing stability. [APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!](#)

### **Eligibility and docs needed**

Either the tenant or landlord can begin an application. **Participation from both the tenant and landlord is required** to complete an application and for payment to be issued.

### **Tenant applicants must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible:**

- Household income must meet certain income limits.
- Qualified for unemployment benefits or have experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, OR experienced other financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to COVID-19.
- Show they are at risk for becoming homeless or losing their housing.

**Tenants and landlords will need to provide documentation** to complete the application and for payment to be issued. A list of what tenants and landlords/property managers need to provide can be found on [www.RentReliefRI.com](http://www.RentReliefRI.com).

RIHousing has opened a new Call Center to assist applicants with questions. Residents can call the **Rent Relief RI Call Center: 1-855-608-8756** or **contact** Katie West for more information.

**The WeR1 Fund is providing \$400 gift cards for Rhode Islanders** who are not eligible for most federal relief programs due to their immigration status. The funds allow for purchase of groceries, gas, and other basic necessities. Those in need of assistance should visit [Dorcas International](#) to apply. Applications can also be found in [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#), and [Haitian Creole](#).

### **GRAB AND GO MEALS:**

**PROVIDENCE:** Breakfast and lunch meals are now available to families with children ages 18 and under on Tuesdays and Fridays. Times for pick up are 2:30pm to 4:30 pm.

Here are the sites that are serving meals [Providence Grab and Go Sites](#)

**RHODE ISLAND FOOD SITES:** If your family lives in a location other than Providence, please click below for a list of food sites that serve your community:

[RI FOOD SITES](#)

### **COMMUNITY EVENTS:**

**Family Friendly Nutritional Fun!** The Lifespan Community Health Institute and Temas Familiares will deliver a virtual workshop entirely in Spanish on Wednesday, June 9th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. titled “Family Friendly Nutritional Fun!” The workshop will start with a virtual resource fair featuring family-friendly summer activities. Following the resource fair, Fatima Tobar, Community Nutrition Educator with the URI SNAP-Ed program, will demonstrate a delicious recipe to prepare at home. This workshop will highlight the importance of eating a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables and speak to the benefits of involving children in meal preparation! [Click Here](#) for more information.

# Family Friendly Nutrition Fun!

Virtually on Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> 2021  
6:00-7:30pm



• • • **Featuring Fatima Tobar, BS, URI  
SNAP-Ed Nutrition Program**

Join Fatima Tobar, Community Nutrition Educator, with the URI SNAP-Ed program as she walks through a delicious recipe, highlights the importance of eating a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables, and speaks on the benefits of having children more involved in the kitchen.

This workshop will be delivered completely in Spanish.  
This Event is **FREE** and open to the public.  
However, registration is encouraged.




Register at  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021temasfamiliares>  
or call Marly Torres at 401.444.8076



Por favor haga click en este enlace para leer la traducción en español



## RINIMC is different! \_\_\_\_\_

*We Are Educating the Nurses of  
Tomorrow, Today.*

For more information, visit our  
website: [rinimc.org](http://rinimc.org)



*Copyright © All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

**Nurses Institute Middle College**

150 Washington Street

4th Floor

Providence, RI

Phone: (401) 680-4900

Fax: (401) 533-9928

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).