

WOMEN'S fund

R H O D E I S L A N D

2019-2020 Women's Policy Institute Fellows & Faculty



Abeer Khatana dove into social justice work while attending Smith College where she served as the Social Justice and Equity Representative. After graduating, she moved back to Rhode Island and worked with Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island as the Education Administrative Intern. She was a part of the AmeriCorps Cohort with the The Nonviolence Institute where she led workshops on nonviolence at West Broadway Middle School. She is now the Development Manager at Dorcas International Institute of RI, is part of the Organizing Committee for Sista Fire, and often partners with Girls Rock RI to lead workshops.

Super Power: Imagination and maintaining hope



Aline Binyungu Nzigire began her career in the Democratic Republic of Congo in central Africa where she worked as an Activist and human rights defender for women's rights. She moved in Thailand in 2008 as a refugee and worked hard to defend refugee's rights in their process of resettlement. She moved to Rhode Island in 2014. Aline is the founding executive director of Women's Refugee Care, a nonprofit organization helping and supporting refugees from the Great Lakes Regions of Africa to become active members of the American society.

Twitter: @WomenRefugee

Super Power: Speech

Alyson Panzarella began her career as an intern at Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children where she works now as their Coordinator of Program Quality. Alyson has worked with over 200 child care centers, family child care providers, and school-age programs to help them improve the quality of care they provide to Rhode Island's children. Her work includes partnering with the Campaign for Quality Child Care and Pre-K. She was also named the chair of the Community Engagement Committee of the NAEYC Young Professionals Advisory Council. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies with a focus in child



settings from the University of Rhode Island. She is currently pursuing a Masters of Jurisprudence in Children's Law and Policy at Loyola University Chicago.

Twitter: @AlysonPanz

Super Power: Empathy



Anita Bruno started her union carpentry career 12 years ago in New York City. She endured many hardships throughout her career to finally becoming a respected trades woman. She founded her R.I. chapter SIB and organized the women carpenters within local 330. She went on to found R.I. Women in The Trades and hopes to strengthen the women's voice on issues they face in the predominantly male career of construction.

Super Power: Passion



Cheyenne Cazeault has a background in Political Science and Gender and Women's Studies which prompted her to work on numerous local elections. In 2018, she signed on to co-manage Lt. Governor McKee's campaign and ultimately landed in his office as Special Projects Manager. She works on a variety of issues from small business, to aging in RI, education, and women's issues.

Twitter: @CheyenneCaz

Super Power: Dedication



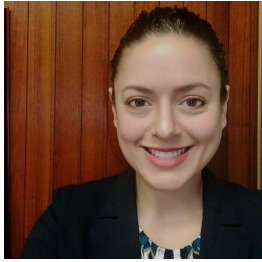
Cordelia Brady is embarking on her career as a Social Worker in Providence, RI. She currently works with folks living with HIV as a mental health Clinician at AIDS Care Ocean State. Previously she was the supervisor for an Emergency Shelter in Hartford, CT and involved in statewide initiatives around housing justice. She earned her BSW at New York University and her MSW at Smith College.

Super Power: Empathy & Intensity



Dianna Shaw is an experienced healthcare executive with a proven track record of improving the quality of life for seniors and those with chronic disease. She builds leadership teams, turns around failing businesses and has a deep understanding of health care regulations, systems and quality improvement. She specializes in Healthcare Quality, Population Health Management with Dementia Care and LGBTQ expertise, Negotiation and Conflict Resolution. She is training for an Ironman triathlon and is a 2013 Leadership RI alumni. She earned her MA from University of Massachusetts/Boston and her BA from Simmons College.

Super Power: Making meals w/ leftovers and making friends with anyone.



Etie-Lee Schaub is an attorney licensed in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. She began her legal career in Rhode Island working as a fellow for the Rhode Island Public Defender. After practicing law in the private sector for a few years, she recommitted herself to public service as an Assistant Solicitor for the City of Providence in 2016 where she continues to this day. She earned her BA from Macalester College and her JD from Cardozo Law School.

Twitter: @EtieSchaub

Super Power: Finding solutions



Jeronima Nix realized her passion for education policy while in graduate school at the University of Connecticut. She began her career at Breakthrough Providence as their summer Dean of Students. She continued in this role while also substitute teaching in the Providence Public School District until she became interim Program Director for Student & Family Engagement. She then transitioned into their Americorps VISTA to gain experience in fundraising and communications. She previously worked in operations, giving her the opportunity to understand how a nonprofit flourishes across all levels.

Twitter: @NiimoNix

Super Power: Speaking up despite discomfort



Karrie DiSanto has been an independent digital advertising professional for almost twenty years Karrie and is a true “guerilla marketer.” She has honed her ability to quickly grasp the dynamics of a situation and execute with effective tools and tactics to serve clients across a diverse range of industries, from pet care centers to restaurants, and manufacturing firms to nursery schools. Business opportunities with local non-profits over the past two years has sparked a desire to use her talents to achieve more meaningful professional accomplishments while also realizing the personal satisfaction of bettering our communities.

Twitter: @KarrieDisanto

Superpower: Versatility



Lani Willmar is the Associate Director of College Admissions at The College Crusade of Rhode Island. Lani is responsible for providing support to high achieving, low-income students throughout the college search, selection, and enrollment process. Growing up low-income herself, she attended Williams College as a Questbridge Scholar and went on to become a Fulbright Scholar after graduating in 2015. Lani is passionate about issues regarding educational access, environmental justice, and gender equity. In her spare time, she loves playing soccer and bringing people together by hosting dinner parties.

Super Power: Social engineer dinner party host



Mary Ellen Lynch is an Adjunct Professor and CEO & Founder of Mary Ellen Lynch Consulting. She inspires change by fostering global citizenship in and outside of the classroom. While earning her Master's Degree at Boston University, Mary Ellen traveled to Costa Rica to conduct research for her thesis and volunteered with an NGO. Her fieldwork exposed her to global challenges that compelled her to embark on a career of education and community engagement. Mary Ellen has over 10 years of experience working in the nonprofit field, focusing her career on refugee advocacy and community engagement. She has worked in the refugee resettlement field, cultivating community partnerships to connect refugees to the broader

community and presented at the United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants National Conference. Mary Ellen has extensive experience facilitating workshops on topics such as cross-cultural competency, community engagement, leadership development, public speaking, and volunteer management.

Twitter: @MELynchConsult

Super Power: Empathy



Michelle Moony Michelle began her career as an HR coordinator at DiLeonardo International in Providence and then became an HR analyst at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport. She is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Center for Sexual Pleasure and Health and Trinity Gateway Historic Improvement Association as Vice President. In her current position with ResCare Workforce Services, she helps families in poverty achieve full self-sufficiency through holistic case management, vocational training and job-readiness programming.

Additionally, she was a recent panelist for RI Pride's & Millennial RI's, "Out at Work: Strategies for Being Out & Protected".

Super Power: Excel



Raquél Pérez is a full-time Registered Nurse at Women & Infants Hospital and a part-time Social Media Assistant for the small business, Half Full LLC. As an RN, Raquél helps people, and as a Social Media Assistant, she highlights people. A 2017 graduate from URI, Raquél's love for Rhode Island began as an undergraduate, and since receiving her degree, Raquél has stayed active in the state by becoming an AmeriCorps member, TEDx speaker, and College Leadership Rhode Island alum. Raquél was honored as a Forbes Fellow in 2018 and 1st Runner-Up to Miss Rhode Island in 2019.

Twitter: Nurse_Raquel_Lynn

Super Power: Empathy



Tiffany Word Tiffany's BA in History, MA in Teaching, and sense of humor allowed her to make a career teaching adolescents that civics is not boring, history doesn't repeat itself, poetry is powerful, what Shakespeare was really saying, and the need for authentic communication. A fervent advocate for LGBTQ rights, she served as Virginia's state lead for GetEQUAL, and held state and national positions for Marriage Equality USA. She has participated in grassroots organizations defending women's reproductive rights in Virginia and Rhode Island. She is currently pursuing her MSW degree at Rhode Island College.

Super Power: Reading a room



Victoria Picinich graduated from Providence College with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and Women's Studies. She was inducted into Alpha Delta Mu, RI Chapter in 2007. She has worked for several nonprofit organizations in RI for the last 10 years, specializing in fundraising, development, event planning, and marketing. She is the Development Director for Grow Smart RI, as well as the creator and producer of "A Quality of Place: The Grow Smart RI Podcast." She was recognized as an Emerging Leader by the Rhode Island Foundation in 2019.

Twitter: @VPicinich0330

Super Power: Femanist parenting



Paula Hodges, Facilitator Paula began her political and management career in Missouri working for the Secretary of State, America Votes and the Missouri National Education Association. She led the Governmental Relations team at Planned Parenthood in Rhode Island 2011 to 2014 and the America Votes New Hampshire coalition 2014 to 2017. In 2018 she was the founding Executive Director of New Hampshire Progress Alliance, a pooled social change impact investing alliance. She was the founding chapter director for New Leaders Council NH and serves as an advisory board member for New Leaders Council RI. She continues to build progressive power through strategic facilitation, planning, start up management and fundraising through her social enterprise, Anchor Strategies. She earned her B.A. from Truman State University and M.B.A. from the University of New Hampshire.

Twitter: @PaulaJHodges

Super Power: Persuasion and organizing (as a pastime & professionally)