Postsecondary Students: Building Communities on Campus  |  10:30-11:30

Goal of the Panel:
To educate attendees on the student-led initiatives, campus activities, and student experiences of postsecondary students at Rhode Island’s higher education institutions. These postsecondary students and recent graduates from diverse background were selected from both private and public institutions to provide a full range of perspectives and a comprehensive overview of Rhode Island’s postsecondary student population.

Moderator:

Vanessa Britto, MD, MSc
Dr. Vanessa Britto is the Assistant Vice President for Campus Life and Executive Director of Health and Wellness at Brown University. Vanessa is a board-certified internist and has been a student life professional and administrator since 2001, serving in leadership roles in the field of college health at the local, regional and national levels. At Brown, Vanessa oversees the areas of Health Services, Counseling and Psychological Services, BWell Health Promotion, Student and Employee Accessibility Services and Emergency Medical Services - a combined team of over 200 staff and students. Dr. Britto is excited to return to Brown University to champion a new chapter and a new vision for health and wellness at Brown - continuing in the tradition of innovation and leadership among peers. In her spare time Vanessa can be found reading, traveling, enjoying live music (especially jazz), biking or getting in a round of golf.
Panel Participants:

Matthew Flathers
Matthew Flathers is a senior studying archaeology and engineering at Brown University. He is a Co-Coordinator for the Brown University chapter of Project LETS and serves as a Peer Mental Health Advocate (PMHA). He’s passionate about centering the narratives of students’ whose experiences often go overlooked and uses his own personal lived experience to shape his work. A few of his current initiatives include expanding alternative support systems for students with mental illness, bringing more awareness to highly stigmatized diagnoses, and embedding positive mental health practices into large institutions.

Olive Swinski
Olive Swinski is in the final year of the Master of Social Work Program at Rhode Island College. She works as a Graduate Assistant for Learning for Life (L4L) where she: mentors and advocates for students in the RIC community; is piloting a supportive program to help matriculating students on the Autism Spectrum persis; and is the Disability Services Center Content Navigator (she is the liaison between the two offices). Post-graduation, Olive hopes to continue supporting college students with their mental health needs and creating policy changes that best support the mental health needs of college students.
Panel Participants (continued):

Jeffrey C. Ellis
Jeff will be graduating from Bryant University in May of 2019; he is majoring in marketing with a double minor in sales and film studies. As one of the original founding members of the Active Minds chapter at Bryant, and the current president, he has worked to raise awareness for mental health and end the stigma behind it. Jeff also enjoys playing the snare drum in the pep band at Bryant and is a devoted Patriots fan. Go Bulldogs!

Ryan Yun
Ryan Yun is a student at CCRI where he also serves as the President of the Warwick Campus Psychology Club. He is currently pursuing psychology as his major. He hopes to aid those in the prison population after he finishes his education.