

Papitto Opportunity Connection

April 2022

Five Big Ideas

We recently announced the five finalists of the first-ever [Transform Rhode Island Scholarship](#) (TRIS). Nearly 100 students from across the state shared their unique ideas that answered one simple question:

“If you were given \$1,000,000 how would you make Rhode Island’s communities of color better and stronger?”

Transform Rhode Island Scholarship

Congratulations to the five TRIS finalists below who were recently celebrated with a surprise announcement at their respective schools. In alphabetical order:



Daisha Jackson, The Met High School

Big Idea:

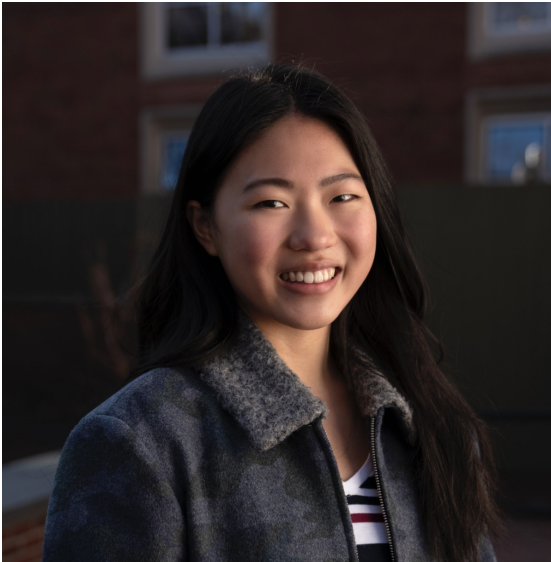
Yoga Mats with a QR Code that would provide up-to-date information on health and mental wellness.



Mariam Kaba, Woonsocket High School

Big idea:

Program addressing job creation that also offers mental health resources and restores communities.



**WHEELER
SCHOOL**

Isabelle Mitchell, The Wheeler School

Big Idea:

Create an annual BIPOC Festival to celebrate the strength of RI's communities of color.



Ziondre Ogiba, The Met High School

Big Idea:

A program that combines athletics and education to combat summer learning loss.



Jalisa Ramos, The Met High School

Big Idea:

Urban Agriculture Project –A program to grow food that also addresses multiple community needs.

POC has committed to investing \$1 million in the winning idea and will work with the student to have their idea transformed into reality.

The first-place winner will receive a \$25,000 scholarship. Second and third place winners will receive a \$15,000 or \$10,000 scholarship, respectively. All five students will receive at least a \$2,500 scholarship.

The winning idea will be announced at a celebration on May 26, at [Farm Fresh RI](#). All students who submitted TRIS entries will be invited to attend.

FLY Aims to Help Students Save & Soar

April is National Financial Literacy Month and with the newly passed legislation that now requires Rhode Island public schools to provide financial literacy education beginning in the fall, the importance of financial literacy is now at the forefront of education.

On average, only 5% of Rhode Island high school students currently receive financial literacy education. Of these students, approximately 90% are white.



Understanding the challenges youth in the BIPOC communities face, Marcy Reyes founded [The Financial Literacy Youth](#) (FLY) Initiative, a non-profit organization that provides culturally responsive financial literacy programming to underserved and underrepresented students. Developing financial knowledge will empower youth to make good choices and lead to financial wellness and stability –the key to ending generational poverty.

With support from the Papitto Opportunity Connection, FLY Initiative continues to soar. FLY Initiative has served more than 1,000 RI BIPOC students. Watch this [video](#) and learn how FLY gave one young man the skills he needed to change his life.

Marcy's goal is to serve 7,000 students by 2024.

Record-Setting Day in the 401

It was a record-setting year for [401Gives](#), Rhode Island's statewide day of giving held on Friday, April 1. Powered by [United Way of Rhode Island](#) and presenting sponsor Papitto Opportunity Connection, 401Gives raised a record \$3.1 million –a 35% increase over the previous year.

From non-profits focusing on education, job skills training and entrepreneurship ventures to community organizations helping to combat food insecurity, improve the environment and care for animals, more than 500 area non-profits will continue their important work thanks to the support from nearly 13,000 donors who made donations during the 2022 401Gives campaign.



Since 401Gives debuted three years ago, \$6.6 million has been raised for non-profits which provide critical services and programs across the state.