



Nicolas Upegui

Transform Rhode Island Scholarship

“My inspiration for this program comes from the time I spend in Central Falls and my family’s experiences. Both of my parents work for CF schools. I also volunteer every week for Project Goal at Calcutt Middle School. Firsthand, I see what these students need most: confidence, feeling deserving of great opportunities and capable of incredible feats.”

~ Nicolas Upegui

North Providence High School

BIG IDEA:

Nicolas’ big idea is anchored around a mentorship and enrichment program specifically for students of color through BIPOC mentors. The program would help students build confidence, attain critical learning and leadership skills, while simultaneously ending stigma and prejudice.

HOW WILL HE DO IT?:

The Beautiful, Intelligent, Persistent, Outstanding, and Capable (BIPOC) Mentorship and Leadership Initiative would allow diverse

students in 8th to 12th grade to work on public service projects that showcase their passions, interests, endeavors, and abilities.

Throughout the process, students will work with BIPOC mentors from Rhode Island’s universities, businesses, and institutions. The projects and presentations will be showcased to students from predominantly white communities, attending these presentations through field trips. The specific audience is important because seeing the BIPOC students’ incredible work will hopefully diminish prejudice and build the confidence of individuals of color.

