Rio VieraSpears

Transform Rhode Island Scholarship

"The biggest divide between generations today isn't age, it's understanding. Technology has widened that gap, but it can also be the tool that brings people back together. My idea transforms a stereotype ("kids are always on their phones") into a solution: young people using technology to teach, connect, and lead. "

~ Rio VieraSpears
The MET High School

BIG IDEA:

Rio's big idea is to create a program that places high school students at senior centers and housing authorities to teach technology workshops and build intergenerational relationships.

Youth will earn meaningful job experiences, strengthen communication and teaching skills, and gain a stronger sense of community. The elderly will gain confidence using technology, reduce loneliness/isolation and get access to tools that improve their daily life.

HOW WILL HE DO IT?

The program would recruit Rhode Island high schoolers, prioritizing under-resourced youth, and pay them a fee for their time. After training in communication, teaching, and AI/ tech basics, they'd lead interactive workshops at the state's senior centers, public housing agencies, and licensed nursing homes and teach basic tech skills while socializing with elders.

Planned partnerships with the RI Office of Healthy Aging and the RI Department of Aging expand support beyond these workshops.

meet the MET HIGH SCHOOL

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