



**RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE**



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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Project Green Schools & Rhode Island College Partner for 'Green Schools Summit & Meteorological Balloon Launch'**

*RI Students Gain Experience with STEM & Energy-Related Education in College Setting*

**PROVIDENCE, RI – APRIL 25, 2018**—Rhode Island elementary school students attended the 'Green Schools Summit Meteorological Balloon Launch' today presented by Project Green Schools (PGS) and Rhode Island College (RIC), a 2017 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Postsecondary School. Students made their own kites to gain hands-on experience with STEM and energy-related education in a college setting while learning about kite technology, data collection and measurement through a balloon launch experiment.

"This one-of-a-kind event allowed Rhode Island College, Project Green Schools and the Blue Hill Observatory Science Center to come together and present each of our programs to the next generation of environmental leaders," said Frank D. Sánchez, president, Rhode Island College. "As a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School, we take the responsibility of educating future leaders on the effects of climate change very seriously. By promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing waste and energy consumption, we stay committed to what the Green Ribbon School designation represents."

"We are delighted to have partnered with Rhode Island College today for a day of experiential learning to inspire the next generation of green leaders, while celebrating RIC's innovative sustainability practices," said Robin Organ, Executive Director of Project Green Schools. "Despite the uncooperative weather, students were able to participate in a hands-on experiment that allowed them to interact with the environment in new ways. We thank RIC for opening their doors to us to help expose more students to project-based learning, environmental studies and green career paths that will help create a more sustainable future."

Students assembled kites and launched meteorological balloons to learn about the data that can be collected and measured to understand climate and atmospheric information. Plants were also brought in from RIC's on-campus greenhouse and gardens to introduce students to the college's sustainability efforts on the campus. Balloons can be tracked following the event on social media if students want to know more about where the balloon traveled.

The event also included remarks by Joe DeSilva, Rhode Island School Building Authority, and Paul DeRoche, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce.

As a 2017 Green Ribbon School, RIC was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for demonstrating exemplary efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs; improve the health and wellness of students and staff; and deliver effective environmental and sustainability education that incorporates multiple disciplines, including STEM, civic skills and green career pathways.



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**Project Green Schools** (<http://projectgreenschools.org>) is developing the next generation of environmental leaders through hands-on, project-based, solutions-based learning, community service and action for students K-12. Students work at the intersection of STEM meets energy, environment and public health, while developing sustainable solutions, soft skills, as well as college and career readiness. The global impact of Project Green Schools is 6,300 schools, 500,000 students, 43 U.S. states, 9 countries...and growing!

