



Afterschool Leadership Circle Meets at the Rhode Island State House

By: Mavis Nimoh

On **April 26, 2018**, United Way of Rhode Island's **Afterschool Leadership Circle (ALC)** held its **membership meeting** at the **Rhode Island State House**.

This **meeting**, one in a **series** geared toward **Advocacy and Afterschool**, was **organized by Travis Escobar**, United Way's Public Policy Program Manager, **Joseph Morra**, Senior Project Manager for Expanded Learning and ALC, and **Mavis Nimoh**, Senior Project Manager for Expanded Learning and ALC Lead.

Senator Ana B. Quezada, as well as **Representatives Julie Casimiro** and **Aaron Regunberg**, spoke to the **group** about the **fundamentals** of providing **public testimony**. Following their presentation, they worked with ALC members on a policy **case study** and **mock testimonies**.

Mavis Nimoh spoke about the **goals** of the **Every Hour Counts framework**:

- Using **improved data** to influence **choices**.
- **Better outcomes** for youth through an **expanded learning system**.
- Increased **access** to **quality learning opportunities**.

"Moving forward, **ALC** will **advocate** for the **afterschool field** and provide professional development opportunities using the **Every Hour Counts** framework; it will inform our work with members, the **public, community groups**, and **parents**," explained Mavis. "We also intend to utilize this framework in **discussions** concerning the proposed **Out of School Time Commission**," she continued.

Joseph Morra discussed the **advances** made through ALC's **professional development series** and the successful creation of the **Bachelor of Arts in Youth Development program** at Rhode Island College. He said, "Our efforts in this area have created endless **opportunities** for the afterschool field; this is something we should all feel great about because it means **better outcomes for youth**."

Travis Escobar explained the importance of **United Way's** role in the Senate's **Out of School Time Commission** discussion and asked that all **ALC members** stay engaged in **policy issues**. "We make a direct impact in the lives of Rhode Island's **youth** when we all **work together**," he said.

The meeting ended with a State Capitol tour hosted by Anne T. Quintero, United Way's Project Manager for Economic Security and Labor Relations.

