



**The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's
Sustainable Workforce Development Network
Our Team: 2020**



**Marianne Larned
Founding Director**

Marianne is the Founding Director of the Stone Soup Leadership Institute and the author of educational series, *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes*. A thought leader and spokesperson, Ms. Larned uses the Stone Soup model to inspire people to work together to build a sustainable world. Marianne is a sustainability champion, workforce development strategist, Design Thinking pragmatist and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) pioneer. She has assisted Fortune 500 companies, Chambers of Commerce, education, government, civic and community leaders to develop public-private partnerships to improve economic development, education, and health care. She received her Masters in Organizational Development at Boston University. Her undergraduate studies were at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the Rudolph Steiner Center in Aberdeen, Scotland. Marianne is honored to work along a talented multicultural team to build this economic development tool that will enable communities to plan for transition to the blue-green economy.



**Trevor Tanaka
SustainWDN Project Director**

Trevor is the SustainWDN Project Coordinator where he interfaces with the tech team and sustainability leaders. In 2011 he served as a youth delegate from Hawaii to the Institute's Youth Leadership Summit. He is a founding member of the Sustainable Hawaii Youth Leadership Initiative. He then envisioned the Sustainable Education Resolution and championed it through passage. He was then the Project Coordinator for the Sustainable Hawaii Toolkit, a global model to connect youth, educators, business and community to build a sustainable world. In 2016 Trevor graduated from Chapman University. He now serves as an emerging leader and faculty for the Institute's annual Sustainability Summit, where he helps the youth to realize dreams and develop sustainability-in-action projects to help their communities. Trevor is featured in the new book: *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes*.

Our Facilitators



Taynara Goncalves
Martha's Vineyard
Summit Facilitator

Taynara Goncalves is a graduate of Gordon College with a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a pre-med concentration. Taynara served on the first Brazilian delegation to MVYLI's 2013 Youth Leadership Summit; as a MVYLI Visioneer to create the 2014 & 2015 Summit; and at the 2014 Cronkite Awards. Taynara served as an Emerging Leader: 2015-2017 Summits and as the College Prep Program Facilitator working with the Brazilian youth to envision and develop their dreams. She served as a Project Coordinator for Career Mentor & Job Shadow Day, traveling to work with MVYLI youth during the holidays and school vacations. She participated in MVYLI's Career Mentor & Job Shadow Day Program: 2012-2015. For MVYLI's Multicultural Project Taynara spoke to younger students to inspire them. Taynara speaks 3 languages: Portuguese, English, and Spanish. Two years ago, Taynara was served as a Beyond Benign Fellow that "develops and disseminates green chemistry and sustainable science educational resources that empower educators, students, and the community at large to practice sustainability through chemistry." Taynara graduated from Martha's Vineyard Regional High School where she was in the National Honors Society, soccer team, and volunteered at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Taynara's dream is to become either a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant. Born in Brazil, Taynara moved with her family to the Island when she was four. Taynara served as Facilitator for the Institute's Summit in 2018-2020



Lauren Matthias
Summit Facilitator

Lauren is an educator with an extensive background in multi-faceted education environments. She is committed to providing students with necessary tools to achieve academic goals, instilling love of learning and cooperative teamwork. She graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Studies and Women's Studies from Emerson College in Boston. She is currently a Teaching Partner at the Paul Cuffee Middle School in Providence where she engages in classrooms through substitute teaching, co-teaching and tutoring. She joins the Institute's team as a summit facilitator, working weekly with youth delegates on various issues.



Namgyal Gyaltsen
Project Coordinator & Facilitator

Namgyal is the Project Coordinator for the TouchStone Leaders Platform and works as a liaison between the tech team and the BETA users to ensure that the Institute's Learning Tools are user-friendly and up to date. While working with the Institute Namgyal has developed her design skills to assist with the website mockups, presentations and pitch decks. She assists with the research and development of the Institute's SustainWDN. Namgyal graduated from Brown University with a double degree in Economics and Environmental Studies and is interested in issues at the nexus of economic development and environmental conservation. While at Brown, she interned with Environment America to advocate for the strengthening of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and renewable energy in Rhode Island. In Bhutan, she served as an intern with the Ministry of Economic Affairs' Dept of Renewable Energy where she researched diversification of renewable energy sources. Under WWF Bhutan, she worked with local experts on bird conservation to launch the first Birdwatching Club of Bhutan to initiate dialogue among the youth about conservation.



Berta Paleaz
Youth Leaders Facilitator
Providence, Rhode Island

Berta Paleaz is a Youth Leaders Facilitator and serves as an inspirational role model for our Latin youth, especially young women. She immigrated to the U.S. with her mother from her homeland in Guatemala when she was 13 years old. Berta graduated from Central High School in Providence, RI. Her intention was to continue her education, however due to her immigration status, she was not accepted to college. Berta was persistent and never gave up her dream of learning. When Berta turned 31 she became a legal resident of USA. She immediately signed up for college. During the interim period, she joined many groups at her church and became a CCD teacher and a youth group leader. Berta married and is the mother of two wonderful children. In 2018 she graduated from Community College of Rhode Island. In addition to serving as a Youth Facilitator, Berta joyfully oversees the Institute's Logistics Team for the Summit and coordinates the annual Community Service Project.



Andonaq Grozdani
SustainWDN Facilitator

Andi Grozdani is graduate of University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth with a Bachelor's in Computer Science. He participates in hackathons: design sprint-like events with computer programmers, software development, graphic designers, interface designers, project managers, to collaborate intensively on software projects. Andi helped create applications to help in natural disasters, the blind, and social issues. In 2018, Andi and his team won first place at Perkins School for the Blind Hackathon by creating EZForm. The application enables the visually impaired to easily and confidentially fill out a medical form. Andi always wants to help people make their lives easier. He believes the Institute's Sustainable Workforce Development Network is a wonderful opportunity to implement his technical skills to make a difference for companies and for young people committed to sustainability. He is pleased to help lead the tech team and is excited to developing his skills while making an impact in the world.



Patricia Pires Diaz
SustainWDN Facilitator

Patricia is a UMass Dartmouth senior, majoring in Computer Information Science. A descendant of Cape Verdean parents, she immigrated to the United States from Portugal when she was 7 years old. She built an inventory and sales-tracking application for her high school's store, and won first place in the 2014 Congressional App Challenge. For her college senior project, she is leading a team of developers in building a dispatch website and mobile app for the Mattapoissett Council on Aging in coordinating rides for elderly and disabled residents. She is a remote Software Developer for Augur Enterprises, using Java to build application features. Patricia aspires to work for a digital agency, working with diverse clients in building applications that solve problems. She believes the Institute's Sustainable Workforce Development Network is great opportunity to work with people of different backgrounds in developing a solution for the future.

Our Tech Team



Jack McCoy is an incoming freshman at Occidental College, double major in Computer Science and Media Arts and Culture, concentrating in Film Production. He served as the Cape Cod youth delegate to the Institute's 15th Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development. He served on the Summit's Tech Team and co-designed on the Institute's new site: Sustainability is Fun: www.sustainabilityisfun.com and www.SustainWDN.com (Sustainable Workforce Development Network). At the Institute's Summit, Jack was inspired to begin the Sunrise Movement's Cape Cod Hub. He led the Cape and Islands Youth Climate Action Summit. Jack was the Director of Branding and Design at MetroHacks, the largest high school hackathon on the east coast. As an intern with the Cape Cod STEM Network, he used his programming, graphic design and writing skills. Through this internship, he worked directly with NASA, NOAA, and WHOI scientists to produce a short film titled, *Searching for Alien Life in Our Own Backyard*.



Chris Aring-Sharkovitz
TouchStone Leaders
Design Team Leader

Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership
Initiative

Chris Aring-Sharkovitz graduated Olin College of Engineering where he received a full scholarship. Chris served as a youth delegate to the Institute's Youth Leadership Summit in 2015. There he was inspired by Gandhi's grandson to ground his ideals in serving humanity. For his Senior Project, Chris helped create a Hack-a-Thon for the Institute's TouchStone Leaders Platform. We brought together college students from Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mt. Holyoke College and University of Massachusetts Lowell. With the team, they created a presentation/pitch deck and video. An active member in the Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative, Chris worked on Institute's Platform's Leadership Course BETA to use the stories and curriculum from *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes* to teach the 21st century skills. For his online Sustainability-In-Action Project, Chris designed an online system to match youth with volunteer opportunities with local non-profit organizations. He co-designed www.virtualfieldstation.com to connect youth with research, internships in the blue economy. Chris co-led the Institute's Design-A-Thon to envision the Institute's Sustainable Workforce Development Network: www.SustainWDN.com



Ilya Besancon
TouchStone Leaders Design Team

Ilya Besancon graduated from Olin College of Engineering majoring in Product Design. In 2019 Ilya served on the Institute's Summit Tech Team. He co-led the Institute's Design-A-Thon to envision the Institute's Sustainable Workforce Development Network: www.SustainWDN.com Ilya always wants to make an impact on people, and finds it deeply fulfilling to participate in educating the next generation of workers, citizens and advocates for sustainability. One of the most meaningful design process meaningful projects he's worked on was partnering with service animal trainers to develop solutions for their communities. It was deeply humbling for him to learn from these incredible people and to work with a team to tackle challenging issues. Ilya aspires to live in a world that thrives in peace, where people are exceedingly kind to each other and young people pursue their dreams without fear or limitations.



Carli Lynch
Videographer

Carli Lynch is a graduate of Salve Regina University. She served as the Institute's videographer for the 2019 Summit and produced a series of videos on blue economy speakers and the Institute's Sustainable Workforce Development Network: www.SustainWDN.com. Carli directed and edited a short film, which won for Best Narrative Short at the Aquidneck Island Student Film Festival. In addition to the Institute, Carli's clients include New England Inns & Resorts Association and Sebasco Harbor Resort. She is the video producer for Salve, filming university events, dance and theater shows, and editing the content for their YouTube and homepage. For three years she served as the president of Salve's Film Production Club. For her gap year Carli worked on an organic farm in Kula, Hawaii and learned about a sustainable lifestyle and farming. She travelled to Sevilla, Spain, where she lived with a host family and learned to adapt to a new culture and language. Carli hopes that one day she will create films that will inspire people and contribute to changing the world.

Tech Team Advisory



Chris Brown

TouchStone Leaders Advisor

Chris is an experienced designer and product professional that creates compelling user experiences for consumers and business audiences. Specializing in early stage software initiatives of any kind, he brings a thoughtful and collaborative approach to problem solving. The mission of The Institute's TouchStone Leaders Platform instantly resonated with him - Why not bring awareness, opportunity and a sense of purpose about climate change to the very generation that will be confronting it head on their lifetimes. Chris has led design teams at multiple startups focusing on consumer lending. At BillFloat, he created online and retail experiences that provide lending alternatives to the 60 million Americans without access to affordable credit. At Pillow Homes, Chris led the creation of a tech-driven marketplace which allowed renters, land lords and property owners to manage short-term rentals with transparency. Chris built online classrooms & educational media for university professors and K-12 educators in Illinois. He believes user empathy is at the core of every successful product. Chris has helped every company engage & understand their users by contributing to or leading Design Thinking and research initiatives. With degrees in Instructional Technology and a Master in Fine Arts, Chris can acknowledge technology trends while incorporating creativity and human factors into product development teams.



Pavithra Venkatesan
Advanced Algorithms

Pavithra joins the Institute's tech team as a senior developer experienced with advanced algorithms. She is pursuing her Master's degree in Computer and Information Science at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Pavithra received her undergraduate degree in Computer Applications from Madras University in Chennai, India. Pavithra has 3+ years experience as a Software Engineer focusing on development and automation testing for various top-notch clients including FedEx and Home Depot. She was awarded the Lean Certification by Atos-Syntel Inc. and won accolades for her innovative approaches in solving critical test infrastructure migration issues in FedEx. She is a firm believer in "Building software for a cause", and grateful to join the Institute's team to create software and products that make a positive impact on the lives of young people.



**Chibike Nwodim, SWDN Team
UMassD Youth Delegate**

Chibike is a Junior at the UMass Dartmouth. Originally from Nigeria, Chibike spent a year in Belarus before traveling to the United States. In 10 years, Chibike hopes to be the CEO of a tech firm. Chibike played on his high school and college soccer team. He served as an intern for the Institute's 15th Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development. As part of the Summit's Tech Team, he worked on the Institute's new site: Sustainability is Fun.



**Lokeshh Kumar Raju
Designer**

Lokeshh Kumar is pursuing his Master's degree in Computer and Information Science at the UMass Dartmouth. In India, he founded his own company, 711 Desktops and Website Management where he built websites for his clients. Lokeshh is fascinated by Web Development and, explore various websites to better understand how they were designed and developed. He then incorporates the best of other sites when designing future sites. As a recent Web Developer intern with Intelilinx, he was able to design various websites. *"I am really proud to be a part of this project. No other site gives a pathway to accomplish your goals. They just list the jobs in a field without the skills/experience pathway to obtain that specific job. In this case our site stands apart."*