



# Summer news & updates

August 15, 2024 | Issue 29



### Workgroup Meetings

PECAN Public Session – August 22, 2024  
Whole Child Initiative Focus Check-in –  
August 28, 2024  
High School Graduation Café -September  
10, 2024

### Convener Work Session

Convener Meeting – October 11, 2024

**ROC the Future Alliance is Now on  
Instagram**

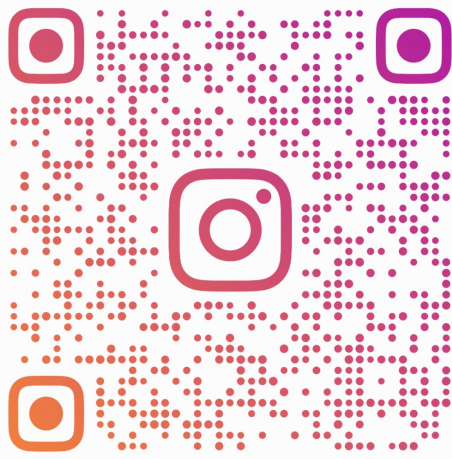


## Message from the Executive Director

*“When you have mastered numbers, you will in fact no longer be reading numbers, any more than you read words when reading books. You will be reading meanings.” - W.E.B Dubois*

Dear Friends,

Growing up, I was enamored with language, not numbers. I once felt that I could express myself more clearly with words and struggled with getting my point across with numbers. My favorite subjects: reading, writing, art and history were based in storytelling and expression. As I grew older, I was introduced to the concept of left brain vs. right brain. This reinforced my belief that my right side –associated with creativity and art – was innately more evolved. By the time I was in high school, this led to a dangerous and erroneous belief that I was incapable of working with numbers. I fell into a vicious cycle, earning



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low grades in classes that required math, fortifying my feeling that I was numerically incapable.

Read More

## Network News



### Know Your Number

ROC the Future Alliance is proud to share our commitment to put 11,000 more children on a path to upward mobility by improving critical Cradle to Career milestones by 2030.

Together, with our alliance of systems leaders, Parent/Family Partners and youth, we will implement a collective impact approach, aligning our work with the national StriveTogether network focusing on collaboration and accountability across sectors.

Knowing our number will strengthen our ongoing efforts to apply the StriveTogether Theory of Action and advance our shared community vision, utilize data-informed decision making, promote collaborative action and cultivate investment and sustainability as we work together to change systems and improve cradle to career outcomes.

Learn more

### Welcome Youth Interns

Please help us welcome Nhaziah Bedell- Scott and Navea Joseph Granderson, the first youth to intern with ROC the Future Alliance through the City of



Rochester's Summer of Opportunity Program.

This summer, they have been actively learning about our organizational framework, project management, and contributing to the onboarding process for new students joining our [Youth Leadership Coalition](#).

Additionally, each student has been provided a laptop and are actively learning career skills through cloud-based productivity and collaboration tools, team building activities, StriveTogether Training Hub, and are building their individual portfolios and resumes.

We are most excited about their contribution to the August Convening team building section and planning for the Parent/Family Partner end of year celebration and recognition.



## Welcome Kimberly Felton

Please join us in welcoming Kimberly Felton to the RTFA team as the Family and Community Engagement Specialist! Kimberly will oversee the Parent Engagement Collaborative Action Network (PECAN) by recruiting and onboarding Parent/Family Partners, coordinating their participation in Outcome Teams and managing opportunities to engage with the community to improve educational outcomes, cradle to career.



## Media Interviews on Shifting Power to Parents

This summer, systems leaders and Parent/Family Partners have joined our Executive Director, Brian Lewis, to promote our work to accelerate progress toward better, more equitable outcomes.

We have been fierce champions of parent power and recognize the importance of parent voice and joint decision making. We interviewed at 104 WDKX to encourage parents to enroll their child in early childhood programs. We know that enrollment in programs such as Head Start (for children 0-5) and Pre-K (for children 3-4) ensures a strong foundation. Head Start and Pre-K programs offer numerous benefits for young children, positioning them for success in their learning and development.

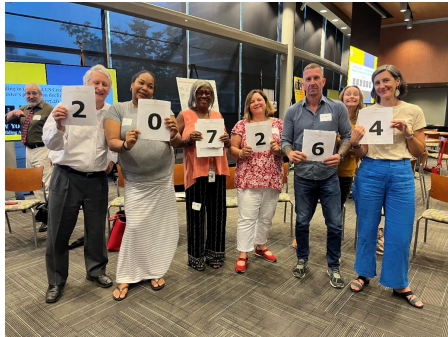
Enrollment is still open.

For Pre-K enrollment, click [here](#).



For Head Start enrollment, click [here](#).

To get more parents involved in the work, we also talked to Radical Rashad of 105.5 The Beat to recruit community members to become Parent/Family Partners. To attend our next Parent Engagement Collaborative Action Network meeting, register [here](#).



## Become a Cradle to Career Champion

ROC the Future Alliance has set a bold new goal to put 11,000 more children on a path to upward mobility by improving critical [Cradle to Career](#) milestones by 2030.

As a member of the Alliance, your work will help us get there. We are collecting stories from our partners to capture the way your work is making shifts in the areas of policy, practices, resources, and/or power structures to benefit Rochester youth and families.

We will utilize the Systems Change form throughout the year to identify your contribution to the 11,000 target and advance our Common Agenda. The benefits of completing this form include growing publicity for your work by sharing it with a larger audience, building alignment by ensuring collective community knowledge, and mutually reinforcing one and other's work by identifying areas for collaboration and breaking down silos.

Complete now

## Upcoming Events

**ROC the Future Alliance — Parent Cafe**

**Wonderland of Abilities: Educating Every Child of Every Ability Because Every Child Matters!**

These cafes are for families of children with disabilities, possible developmental delays, and/or behavioral or mental health challenges.

**Thursday, August 22nd**  
Offered at two different times.  
**12:30 - 3 p.m. or 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Children's Institute — 1st Floor**  
205 St. Paul St., Rochester, NY 14604

Parent Cafés are safe spaces where parents and families talk about their challenges and successes. Parent Cafés are a way to engage parents in improving the systems that serve them, like healthcare, education and human services.

Lunch will be served from 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. (afternoon session)  
Dinner will be served from 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. (evening session)  
There is capacity for 25 participants, per session.

Childcare and transportation will be provided.  
If needed, please confirm by Tuesday, 8/20/24.

[Click here](#) or scan QR code to register by August 21st!

All participants will receive a \$40 gift card!

Registration for each adult is required.

Join us for a Parent Cafe, "**Wonderland of Abilities**," designed specifically for families of children with disabilities,

**ROC the Future Alliance**  
engage parents improve

**P.E.C.A.N.**

**VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING**

**Thursday, August 22, 2024**  
**6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

**ACTIVATE AND BUILD PARENT LEADERS**

Join us for our August public meeting highlighting the importance of father figures and male role models, focusing on their impact on educational outcomes from cradle to career.

**REGISTER HERE**  
<https://tinyurl.com/3nh2ycv>

Participants will receive a \$25 gift card from the Parent Engagement Collaborative Action Network  
[www.rocthefuture.org](http://www.rocthefuture.org)

Join us for the **August PECAN Public Meeting** highlighting the importance of father figures and male role models in

possible developmental delays and/or behavioral or mental health challenges.

This unique event is focused on empowering you, the parents, to "put on your oxygen mask first" so you can effectively navigate the systems that serve your children.

There are TWO in-person offerings:  
Thursday, August 22nd:

**Noon Session:** 12:30pm - 3:00pm

**Evening Session:** 5:00pm - 7:30pm

Register Now

Black and Brown families.

We will hear from previously incarcerated fathers about their roles in restorative practices within the system and from fathers emphasizing the need for a community of men to hold one another accountable and lead systemic change.

Thursday, August 22, virtual, from 6pm - 7:30pm

Register Now



## Mark your calendars for the 12th Annual State of Our Children Address & Report Card Release!

**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025

**Time:** Lunch 11:30 am | Program 12PM - 2PM

**Location:** Harro East Ballroom, 155 N. Chestnut Street, Rochester, NY 14604

This year, we would like to invite a nationally renowned speaker to keynote the event. Please submit your recommendation [here](#).

Keynote Speaker Submission Form



ROC the Future Alliance | 205 St. Paul Street | Rochester, NY 14604 US

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