

The WaytogoRI Team

Matt Kachanis- Educational Assistance Technician

As the Educational Assistance Technician, Matt handles all customer support inquiries and the WaytogoRI helpdesk. Matt's responsibilities also include data management, social networking, collateral materials and program content updates.

Matt is a lifelong Rhode Island resident who spent a number of years in the financial services field before joining the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority (RIHEAA). Matt started at the RIHEAA in the loan department before joining the WaytogoRI team in August of 2010.

Sonia Rodrigues- Program Planner

As Program Planner, Sonia Rodrigues oversees the day-to-day implementation of WaytogoRI's strategic plan, including the program's training and technical assistance. Sonia develops and implements WaytogoRI's training curriculum, conducts presentations and trainings to schools and community based organizations.

Since graduating from Brown University, Sonia's career has been focused on meeting Rhode Island's pressing health, educational and housing needs. She held positions with Health Leads, Rhode Island Kids Count and the Urban League of Rhode Island before joining WaytogoRI. Since 2006, Sonia has served on multiple boards of non-profit organizations dedicated to improving the health and education of Rhode Island residents.

Lisa Shevlin- Assistant Administrative Officer

As an Assistant Administrative Officer, Lisa customizes and delivers presentations about WaytogoRI to groups of student and parents. Lisa also assists with program outreach including mailings, starter kits and presentation flyers.

Lisa joined the WaytogoRI staff in 2010. She has many years of experience in management and training programs. She previously resided in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where she worked for a private military sales company working with all U.S. Military branches of service worldwide. Lisa is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island where she received a Bachelors of Science degree in Management.

Kathy Sisson- Director

As the Director for WaytogoRI, Kathy Sisson is responsible for the overall vision, direction and development of WaytogoRI. Kathy leads the statewide implementation, strategic planning and program evaluation. Kathy joined WaytogoRI as the Program Planner when the program launched in 2007 until assuming her current role in September of 2010.

Prior to coming to RIHEAA, Kathy served as the Career and College Planning Coordinator at Rogers High School with Child and Family Services of Newport County. Kathy received her Masters Degree in Education/Counseling from Providence College and holds a Bachelors of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Northeastern University.