

Rhode Island Revitalized Economic Plan -- "The WE Plan"
Bryant University Senior Honors Capstone Project Research Collaborative

#	Subject / Project Title	Chafee Center Leader(s)	Bryant Student(s)	Faculty Sponsor	Ken Sousa	Possible Department Sponsorship(s)
1	Regulations/Regulatory System	R. Fogarty & R. Thomas			√	
	How do RI environmental regulations compare to competing states, regionally and nationally?					Legal Studies, Economics, Finance
	Do U.S. environmental requirements add to the cost of products and make RI manufacturers uncompetitive in world markets?					Economics, Finance, Legal Studies
	What is the potential economic and/or political impact of requiring the use of a product (e.g., CFL light bulbs) that cannot be manufactured in the U.S. due to environmental or health and safety regulations?					Economics, Finance, Entrepreneurship

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2	Business Development	R. Fogarty & R. Thomas			√	
	What enables a state to attract / grow new busiensses?		Roy Ruivo			Economics, Entrepreneurship, Marketing
	How do states retain successful new companies?					Marketing, Economics, Finance, Entrepreneurship
	Identify aggressive but realistic new jobs for Rhode Island citizens in each of the following categories: domestic sales, healthcare, education, medical industry, manufacturing, corporate capital, port development, airport expansion, tourism, public works (non welfare), financial banking sector, design and biotech.					Economics, Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Finance
3	Balanced Budget / Budgetary Stability	R. Fogarty & R. Thomas			√	
	Analyze the RI budget and determine which areas will serve as incentives for business growth, and which areas will be impediments.					Accounting, Finance, Economics
	Determine the long-term feasibility of business tax incentive programs in RI, such as R&D Tax Credits and Investment Tax Credits					Accounting, Finance, Economics

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4	Healthcare Costs	R. Fogarty & R. Thomas				
	Can Medicare costs be reduced in the face of a growing medicare population in RI?		Michael LaBrosse			Accounting, Finance, Economics
	Is the cost of healthcare the single largest impediment to manufacturing competitiveness for RI / U.S. companies?					Accounting, Finance, Economics
5	Energy Costs	R. Fogarty & R. Thomas			√	
	Can Electricity costs be reduced in the face of growing demand in RI?					Accounting, Finance, Economics
	Can Natural Gas costs be reduced in the face of growing demand in RI?					Accounting, Finance, Economics
	How much can the cost of energy be reduced in RI through use of Wind Power?					Accounting, Finance, Economics
	How much can the cost of energy be reduced in RI through use of Solar Power?					Accounting, Finance, Economics
	How much can the cost of energy be reduced in RI through the use of Geo-Thermal Power?					Accounting, Finance, Economics

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6	Education / Workforce	R. Fogarty & R. Thomas			√	
	Develop a unified plan for job retraining in RI, utilizing such programs as CCRI, EDC 21st Century Project, Race to the Top, etc.					Management, Entrepreneurship, Finance, Economics
	How can RI leverage the existing workforce skills of RI residents to fill new roles in healthcare and energy fields, and in manufacturing?					Management, Entrepreneurship, Finance, Economics
	How do we prepare RI workers for the "knowledge economy" of the future, using university research and business development programs, such as Bryant University's RIEAC, Johnson & Wales' SBDC, etc?					Management, Entrepreneurship, Finance, Economics
7	Port Analysis	R. Fogarty & R. Thomas			√	
	Would RI better utilize the existing resources of all three Ports if it had a unified investment and marketing strategy?					Marketing Entrepreneurship, Finance, Economics
	What will it take for RI ports to remain competitive over the next decade?					Marketing Entrepreneurship, Finance, Economics

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8	Innovation and Entrepreneurship	R. Fogarty & R. Thomas			√	
	What is RI's potential for growth from current R&D investments?					Entrepreneurship, Finance, Economics
	What will it take to make RI the "innovation capital" of the region?					Entrepreneurship, Finance, Economics
9	Manufacturing Rebirth	R. Fogarty & R. Thomas			√	
	What is the impact of all the existing manufacturing "incentives" on RI employment?					Management, Entrepreneurship, Finance, Economics
	What would be the net financial impact to the state if it could bring 10% of all currently outsourced jobs back to RI?		Kathleen Wiseman			Management, Entrepreneurship, Finance, Economics

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10	Reducing Costs for Small Businesses	R. Fogarty & R. Thomas			√	
	What is the total tax burden on small businesses in RI and how does this compare to NE states and to key manufacturing states such as Ohio and Michigan?					Accounting, Finance, Economics
	What programs are in place to ensure that RI companies have fair access to capital?					Accounting, Finance, Economics
11	Tax Burden Fair for All	R. Fogarty & R. Thomas			√	
	What would be the impact on RI of eliminating one of the three major tax categories that are least hospitable to business -- the corporate tax, individual income tax, or the sales tax?					Accounting, Finance, Economics
	What is the real difference between RI and neighboring states when all tax programs are measured and accurately compared?					Accounting, Finance, Economics

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12	"Why Rhode Island" Marketing Campaign	R. Fogarty & R. Thomas			√	
	Which states run have run effective Marketing campaigns to attract new businesses, and how much did these campaigns cost? Were they cost-effective?					Marketing Entrepreneurship