

Future Forum

Futurists from different industries and parts of the world share their visions of artificial intelligence's impact on the jobs of the future and collaborate with students on jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities in their near future.



Wednesday, December 5, 2018
9:00am to 1pm
Hope High School

For the third consecutive year, the Future Forum convenes within the friendly confines of the Hope High School library for a lively, thought provoking, curiosity igniting conversation around artificial intelligence (AI - algorithms, computer programs, robots and other forms of modern technology) and AI's impact on careers and jobs in the global marketplace. Guest Futurists from diverse backgrounds and industries share their professional insights into AI's impact on the future of work as well as facilitating a collaboration among small groups of students to imagine an interesting job/career in the students' future.

Natalie Hogan returns as one of the Forum's featured Futurists. Natalie is a former Futurist at Hasbro, an international toy and board game company. Natalie's role at Hasbro was to inspire and foster a culture of creativity and innovation strategy within the company. Natalie designed and developed strategic programs like research grants, think tanks and "hackathons" to generate futuristic thought for content and material development. Natalie presently is the Chief of Staff at DataRobot in Boston, Massachusetts. DataRobot is a young company that analyzes data to predict things. Financial institutions, including many top banks, use DataRobot technology to predict which prospective customers are likely to repay—or default on—loans. And healthcare companies use DataRobot to figure out who is most likely to develop heart disease, diabetes, or 100 other conditions by crunching through a ton of health data. Physicians can use those results to prescribe the best course of action for their patients. Natalie was an art major at Salem Community College and captain of the women's soccer team before transferring to the Rhode Island School of Design and majoring in Sculpture. Natalie is also the Board Chairman of AS220.



Mark Huang, the **Director of Economic Development for the City of Providence**, addresses last year's Forum audience on his office's mission and emerging career opportunities in numerous industries in an age of artificial intelligence. Natalie Hogan (to the right of Mark Huang in this photo), Chief of Staff at **DataRobot**, identifies examples of artificial intelligence's disruption in the workforce and new jobs being created in the process. George Ortiz (to the left of Mark Huang), Founder of **the Elisha Project**, shared his thoughts on the 'optimum' growth mindset for creating and exploiting opportunities for life time success.

Our Futurists will share their opinions about career opportunities created by AI and encourage students to focus on the job and career opportunities technology will create rather than eliminate. These Futurists will engage students, entertaining their questions and perspectives, stimulating their curiosity and creativity, encouraging their ideas and listening to their concerns. The conversation will hopefully enlighten students to **the importance of and benefits of “looking ahead”** to the future as former General Electric President, Jack Welch, encouraged his company to do. While the topic of technology will drive this conversation, it will also dovetail into several **Life Skills themes** we’ve spoken about this year which also will affect future employment opportunities: personal brand, change management, lifetime personal development, networking, the value of diversity in each person’s network and success strategy. Students from LaSalle Academy will be joining the Hope Life Skills class at Hope High School from their campus in Providence. This class is a follow up to a previous class when the Hope Life Skills students went to LaSalle for a conversation on “*personal brand*” and “*networking*”.

The Forum’s objectives are as follows:

- Appreciation of the evolving impact ‘Artificial Intelligence’ will have on our students’ future jobs and global markets
- Creating an environment of curiosity, questioning, creative thinking and collaboration.
- Inspiring students to be forward thinking, to be regularly “*looking around corners*” into their futures and, in the process, to bring critical thinking and a healthy, always respectful, level of skepticism to each conversation.
- Practice networking skills; continue to build networks of diverse, credible, respectful, people
- Increase empathy; greater appreciation of the perspectives of others



Arguably, the most popular segment of the Future Forum is the small group breakout session as guest ‘futurists’ ignite student curiosity and liberate their creativity for a collaboration to identify a career opportunity for their future. In this specific group led by ‘futurists’ **Nick DeCesare** (black sweater with back to the camera), New York University graphic design major and present Creative Director for Signature Printing and **Owen Johnson** (across the table from Nick), MIT computer science graduate and present CEO of Revival Brewery, and students **Laisha Mendez**, **Rosa Rodriguez**, **Francisco Gonzalez**, and **Allison Spitznagel** create a 21st century security company utilizing the interests and skills of each student: Allison’s design, Laisha and Rosa’s law enforcement and Francisco’s forensic skills.

Future Forum Futurists

- **Natalie Hogan:** Chief of Staff at *DataRobot*; Rhode Island School of Design, BFA Sculpture
- **Beecher Fritzmeir:** Vice President Product Development at *Alex & Ani*; Pratt Institute, BFA Fashion/Apparel Design
- **Dr Roey Tzezana:** futurist and futures studies researcher. Adjunct Prof. Ahva College and visiting Prof. at Shakrim Univeristy, Kazakhstan. Co-founder and CEO of *TeleBuddy* - a robotics company. Author of “*Guide to the Future*” and “*Rulers of the Future*”.
- **Matt Flanagan:** Founder and President, *Senjiva*; University at Albany SUNY, BA English/History
- **Tino Chow:** Design Strategist - *Giant Shoulders*; Rhode Island School of Design, BFA Industrial Design
- **Tim Flanagan:** Vice President Operations *Mercury Print & Mail*; Digital and Large Format General Manager, *Signature Printing*.
- **Kristine Merz:** President *Orange Square Design*; Rhode Island School of Design, BFA Graphic Design
- **Nick DeCesare:** Creative Director, *Signature Printing*; New York University, BFA Graphic Design
- **Owen Johnson:** Chairman and CEO *Revival Brewery*; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, BS Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
- **Soren Ryherd:** President and Co-Founder of *Working Planet*; Boston University, MA Geography/Remote Sensing
- **Claudia Cardozo:** Community Development Manager; *Coastway Community Bank* - President of Cardozo Coaching; Roger Williams University, Community Development
- **Catalina Martinez:** Regional Program Manager, *NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research*; c/o University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography. University of Rhode Island BS Zoology/Animal Biology; MS Biological Oceanography; MS Marine Affairs; MBA Strategic Innovation.
- **Mark Huang:** *Director of Economic Development for the City of Providence*; Web Institute of Naval Architecture; BS in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering; Columbia University -School of International and Public Affairs, Masters International Affairs, East Asia and the Developing World; Columbia University MBA
- **Narine Lemme:** Director of Provider and Employer Analytics - *Harvard Pilgrim Health Care*; Rostov State Economic University, Russia; BS Economics and International Business Relations; University of Rhode Island, MBA
- **George Ortiz:** Founder of *The Elisha Project*; University California at Berkley, BA Business
- **Greg Calderiso:** Assistant Vice President of Corporate Information Systems (CIS), *Amica Insurance*. Adjunct Professor Bryant University teaching “*Crafting an Executing Strategy*” BUS400. Johnson & Wales University BS Management; Bryant University MBA.
- **Tara Cronin:** Founder and President of *Kent Avenue Photography*; East Carolina University BS Exercise Physiology and University California at Berkley Interior Design & Interior Architecture
- **Marta Aparicio:** Case Manager/ Refugee Mentor, *Providence Housing Authority*; Adjunct Professor Miami Dade Community College. Georgetown University, Double BA - Sociology and Government. *Columbia University, International Studies, Masters Program*. Following graduation in 2020, Marta will be assigned a *diplomatic post at an American Embassy - international location to be determined*.
- **Terri Monjar:** Senior Relationship Manager, *Bank of America Merrill Lynch Middle Commercial Banking Team*. University of Richmond, B.S. Mathematics; Babson College MBA
- **Armando Diana:** Director of Marketing Business Services, *RCN*, Fairleigh Dickinson University, BS Marketing
- **Chad Huemme,** Managing Partner *International Entrepreneurship Center*. Westminster College (PA) BA Marketing and Management; Southland University BS Mechanical Engineering Technology; Northeastern University MBA Finance.
- **Nan Quinlan:** *Professional Training & Coaching Consultant*. University of Rhode Island, M.A.Ed; Nova Southeastern University, Technology and Learning, M.Ed
- **Ray Nunez:** *Communications and Engagement Specialist at Leadership Rhode Island*, Johnson & Wales University BS Graphic Design and Digital Media.
- **Michael Meech:** *Leadership Giving Officer Brown University*; Brown University, BA Public and Private Sectors Organization.

Forum Agenda

9:am - Meet/Greet and Networking: Students meeting our guest 'Futurists' and exchanging business cards in the process. All students will have their business cards today.

9:30am – Student opening remarks

9:40am – Visions of the Future:

- **Steve Cronin will interview 2 futurists about their visions of what our students will encounter when they enter an “artificially intelligence” (AI) influenced job market post 2024.**

10:00am - Opening Activity.

- Students will organize into small groups with one or two 'Futurists' for a collaboration to determine an interesting, economically fruitful, 'future career opportunity'. Students will be assigned a group based on the findings from each student's Gallop *Strengths Assessment*. By designing groups based on the complementary skill set of each student, the collaboration potential of each group will be optimized. This activity will begin with each futurist taking 5 minutes to speak with students in their group about their career path and their present job. After each group's collaboration about a future job, or career pursuit, a group spokes person will answer the following questions:

1. The *service or product their company will sell to their customers*
2. The *customer* - who will buy their product or service?
3. The *role artificial intelligence* will play in their company; groups will be asked to give at least 3 examples of tasks AI will perform in the company
4. The *name* of the company
5. The *Marketing channels* used to reach its customers and attract new ones - social media; web site advertising; radio; television; direct mail; pod-cast; etc
6. The *geographic market* the company will serve
7. The *role each student will play in the company*
8. The *President of their company*

11:15am - Announcements - one student from each group will present their 2025 career vision.

11:50am - Closing comments - Stephen Cronin

Noon - Working lunch at Hope High School for additional networking opportunities for students and guests.

12:45pm - Dismissal

“Ideas are often generated in physical gathering places where people with diverse interests encounter one another serendipitously.”

Walter Isaacson, *“Leonardo Da Vinci,”* page 159