



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



**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.



**Chris Brown**  
**TouchStone Leaders Project Director**

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.



**Andonag Grozdani, Project Manager**

Andi is a UMass Dartmouth senior, graduating 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.



**Lokeshh Kumar Raju, Lead 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."*



**Patricia Pires Diaz, Lead Developer**

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.



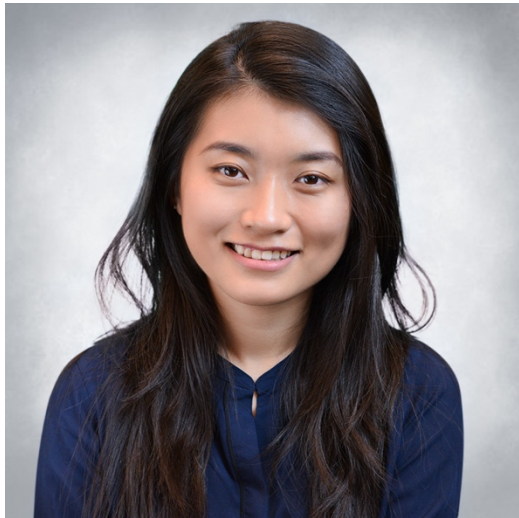
**Chibike Nwodim, SWDN Team  
UMassD Youth Delegate**

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.



**Trevor Tanaka**  
**SustainWDN Project Coordinator**

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.



**Namgyal Gyaltshen**  
**TouchStone Leaders**  
**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 Facilitator**  
**Providence, Rhode Island**

Berta 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.



**Jack McCoy**

Jack McCoy is a senior at the Cape Cod Academy. He served as a youth delegate to the Institute's 15th Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development. He served on the Summit's Tech Team and worked on the Institute's new site: Sustainability is Fun: [www.sustainabilityisfun.com](http://www.sustainabilityisfun.com). Jack was inspired by the Summit to begin the Cape Cod chapter of Sunrise Movement for the Global Action Strike. He then championed the Cape and Islands Youth Action Summit. Jack works the Director of Branding and Design at MetroHacks, a technology education nonprofit where he is in charge of direct sponsorship fundraising from large companies and also organizing multiple STEM education events. 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**

Chris is a junior at Olin College of Engineering, where he received a full scholarship. He majors in Computer & Electrical Engineering. In 2015 Chris served as a youth delegate to the Institute's Youth Leadership Summit. 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. As 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](http://www.virtualfieldstation.com) to connect youth with research, internships in the blue economy.

**TouchStone Leaders  
Design Team Leader**

**Martha's Vineyard Youth  
Leadership Initiative**



**Ilya Besancon**

Ilya is a senior at Olin College of Engineering, graduating with a degree in Product Design. Ilya served on the Institute's Summit Tech Team. It was a wonderful opportunity to implement his technical skills in a meaningful way. He enjoyed learning, practicing and developing himself and his understanding of the world. He has always wanted 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.

**TouchStone Leaders  
Design Team**

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 senior at Salve Regina University. **She served as the Institute's videographer for the 15th Summit and produced a series of videos on blue economy speakers and the Institute's Sustainable Workforce Development. She is currently working on the Institute's video project for Sarvodaya's Dr. A. T. Ariyaratne in Sri Lanka. 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.

### Development Advisors



**Akash Surya, Web Developer**

Akash is pursuing his Masters in Computer Engineering from UMass Dartmouth. For two years, he worked as a Programmer Analyst and Automation Developer in Cognizant Technology Solutions. Since high school, he has been very interested in developing software and applications that provide effective solutions to solve social problems. He is certified in Java, EE and Machine learning courses. He is now creating projects with the help of machine learning to analyze very big data and make prediction about the possible outcomes. While completing his college education, he is part of Youth Helping Hearts organization to help orphaned children. He loves reading books, exploring new places, coding and solving puzzles when he is free.



**Divakar Manoj, Web Developer**

Divakar Manoj Chinnaraju Subramaniam is currently pursuing his Master's in Computer science and information Science at UMass Dartmouth. He was working in a Startup called Cheeni Labs for 2 year before this. He constructed several Data pipelines that feed data that is used to build websites. he has also worked in Dev ops to push all these pipeline in to production. To achieve this he has used various databases like MySQL, Redis, Neo4j, mongo dB, etc. and languages like Python, Ruby. During his undergrad he did internships at IIT Madras and Cheeni Labs. At IIT Madras he was working to build a Vehicle Classification system using Inductive Loops using Random Forest Classifiers. At Cheeni Labs he was working with WordPress and PHP to upgrade their existing WordPress blog and also worked on building their android app to build a dashboard.