



The Stone Soup Leadership Institute was honored to have our Project Manager, Andi Grozdani represent us at the annual **Blue Innovation Symposium** held in Newport, RI from January 14-16, 2020.



Toby Stapleton welcomed everyone to The Blue Innovation Symposium, the premier event in New England connecting different business and academic leaders in the Marine Technology Industry to learn, network and facilitate partnership opportunities. As the youngest person, it was an opportunity for Andi to learn about issues and trends in the Marine Industry and connect with its leaders.



Opening remarks by Sandra Whitehouse on Ocean Policy's Sensors and the Next Wave of Data are critical to addressing some of the challenges faced by the ocean industries in the coming decade.

Keynote presentation by Jim Bellingham, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) on Innovation In Ocean Robots. Jim Hanlon, COVE; Mark Huang, Sea Ahead and Joe Turner, Exocetus Autonomous Systems spoke of the importance of disruptive thinking with Ocean Tech Investments. Data Superabundance by Nick Napp, Xmark Labs; Sensors and the Next Wave of Data by Pete Scheidler, Midé Technology; and MITRE's Undersea Research Program by Nick Rotker, MITRE. Day 2 presentations from Alan Leonardi, NOAA's Ocean Technologies; Geoff Bothun, RI-CAIM at URI; and Greg Folts, QinetiQ. The panel on Defense Sensor and Data with Mike Wardlow, ONR; Fletcher Blackmon, NUWC Newport, and Justin Manley, Just Innovation. Andi enjoyed the flash talks by global innovators and entrepreneurs.



Rhode Island's Secretary of Commerce, Stefan Pryor made a surprise announcement from Governor Raimondo that the major company Ørsted is bringing its U.S. Innovation Hub to Providence, RI.



WHOI's Dr. Jim Bellingham, Boston Engineering and GeoSpectrum Technologies received the Rising Tide Awards.



**Salve Regina's Sean O'Callaghan
Warmly Welcomed Andi Grozdani**

I'm grateful to attend The Blue Innovation Symposium. It was great to see first-hand just how rapidly the Blue Economy is expanding and the new technology being developed. I enjoyed networking with great people in this field. Everyone was very friendly, and they were curious about the Institute's Sustainable Workforce Development Network. I was impressed to learn just how many jobs were being created with all these new technologies. Thanks to the Symposium I feel convinced that the SustainWDN.com we are building will be a great benefit to the industry and the region.

Andi Grozdani



The Institute's **Sustainable Workforce Development Network** is being designed as a one-stop interactive portal and kiosk - online action community, and an environment to build bridges between blue employers, education institutions, community organizations and young people seeking ways to build the Blue Economy.

As a leader in the Blue Economy, we invite you to help us envision the Sustainable Workforce Development Network by completing this 10 Question Business Survey.
(<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XW9FSNS>)

The Survey data will be presented through a stand-alone Kiosk to connect blue companies with future employees. It can become an economic planning tool for communities to build a sustainable economy.

Founded in 1997 on Martha's Vineyard, the Stone Soup Leadership Institute has collaborated with New England communities from Martha's Vineyard to Nantucket and Cape Cod; then blue companies in the SouthCoast Region of Fall River, MA and New Bedford, MA, Newport, RI and Providence RI.

Each of these communities has unique resources, opportunities and challenges. Together we can learn from each other how to maximize this golden opportunity of New England as #1 Blue Economy.

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