



Our Team



It was a true pleasure working with Tess and the students at Durfee High School. Being able to experience firsthand the growth of the students in discussing their dreams and engaging with the stories in Stone Soup for the World was an honor. They are each very special and I'm excited to see them use the tools they've learned through this program in achieving their dreams."

Taynara Goncalves
BETA Program Facilitator



The BETA program at Durfee High School has been a great achievement for all of us. In life we never stop learning, each day is a new lesson as we learn a little from each person we interact with. I am amazed to have had the opportunity to share with both the students and their teacher. I was very pleased to share with the students of Durfee a little of what I have been able to learn from the Stone Soup Leadership Institute, Marianne and each of the Institute's members. Together we do everything we can to show students that there is much to learn about climate change, and many local job opportunities out there. It has been such a pleasure working with the students at Durfee High School because of their engagement and willingness to learn. The students were very respectful to their teacher and to us. They showed us how grateful they are for what they have learned. They realized that there is someone who cares about their present and their future. I am ready to take on another challenge and learn more about so many things in the world.

Berta Perez
Events Coordinator & Spanish Translator



It has been a privilege to work with Tess Bradley and the students at Durfee High School. As a Facilitator, the Durfee BETA Program has served as an amazing experience to connect with students and help to guide them towards their goals. The students embraced our team and the process of learning how to build their sustainable future. Throughout the process, students learned about STEM activities, sustainability innovations and sustainable career pathways by listening to heroes and reading stories featured in Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes. As the program concludes and students the sustainable career certificates they would like to pursue, I hope that they are able to use this experience as a building block to all that they would like to pursue in their lives.

Trevor Tanaka
Sustainability Coordinator



For the past 10 weeks, I've had the privilege to meet and interact with a dozen amazing young people. When reflecting on this, there have been challenges, celebrations, and so much that I have learned from them. Tess Bradley is a wonderful teacher who strives to inspire her students in their studies. She has a great connection with her students, and I can

see that they trust and are very comfortable communicating with her, which was a great help when we started working together. Her infectious energy pushed us forward each week. She was always ready to support and accommodate us throughout the program to help her students. The students were a great inspiration to our team throughout our time together. Working with each of them was always a different experience. They're each unique, they bring their own life experiences, needs and expectations to the table. Some of them are bold and outspoken. Others are more shy and reserved. Throughout the program, I've seen them each progress in their own way. They're beginning to explore their dreams and being encouraged to share their voice. Most of the students are in the final year or two of high school and didn't have a plan about they wanted to do after graduation. For some of them, college might not seem like an option to them. Throughout the 10-week program, we focused on sharing with them knowledge of alternative paths that they could take after high school that they might not have otherwise heard of. That's what makes this curriculum/program special and life-changing for a young person. It gives them the knowledge about their world in ways they might not have been taught before, to learn about how young people like them are involved, and to show them the opportunities available to them that doesn't necessarily have to involve 4- year degree with student loans, yet still give them a good, stable future while making a positive impact.

Patricia Dias
BETA Program Facilitator



It's been an honor to work with Durfee High School to develop the Institute's East Coast BETA Program. We've been impressed with the dedication from CTE Teacher Tess Bradley, support from CTE Director Cynthia Silvia and commitment from Principal Matt Demarais. We are grateful to our partners at Bristol Community College and the Fall River business community. Our team treasured their time with Ms. Bradley and her students – and are excited to see how they pursue their sustainable career pathways. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with Durfee High School.

Marianne Larned
Author, Founding Director



Stone Soup Leadership Institute
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