



ROI supports people's healing process by educating, reshaping systemic practices, and fostering deep-rooted connections. We know people are not to blame for the trauma and stress that impacts them. Resilience is an inner strength in all humans, regardless of background, and we as people are wired for connection and healing. We strive to end generational cycles of trauma and poverty by preventing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress for the community in rural Eastern North Carolina. Often, social innovation processes leave out rural communities of color. We believe in and know the deep assets that exist in rural communities like ours, and seek to smash together disparate worlds to change the narrative commonly held about rural communities.

What's New:

- **[Reflection on Anti-Asian Violence in America](#)**
 - At ROI, we denounce the increasing occurrences of violence and hate crimes toward Asian individuals, both in the United States and around the world. We acknowledge that this violence is not new and has been occurring against Asian communities in the US for over a century. We stand in solidarity with and support the communities experiencing bias, racism, and violence. Our co-founder Vichi Jagannathan, who is Indian American, wrote a personal reflection on this topic that we'd encourage you to read at the link above.
- **The Resilient Leaders Initiative has launched!!** [Read here](#) about the four local organizations that were selected through a 3 phase, community-based process. Teams completed their first virtual convening last month and are working through a 9-month long process to design and pilot trauma-informed solutions.
 - This is a first-of-its-kind accelerator program focused on long-standing rural institutions aiming to heal trauma. We're building the model for innovation in rural community institutions.
- **Shifting from a punitive to restorative school system:** We are supporting a team of 25+ educators and community members to prototype ideas for

solutions that build resilience and reduce punitive discipline in Edgecombe County Public Schools.

- Read more about their [Takeaways from Prototyping](#) phase of the project

VALIDATION TEMPLATE

THIS TEMPLATE HELPS US REFER BACK TO OUR ASSUMPTIONS AFTER A TEST, AND EITHER VALIDATE OR INVALIDATE THEM. THIS IN TURN HELPS US MAKE NECESSARY PIVOTS TO OUR PROTOTYPE.

OUR ASSUMPTION		EVIDENCE/WHY WE KNOW
• _____	 VALID, MAYBE, OR INVALID	• _____
• _____		• _____
• _____		• _____
• _____		• _____
• _____		• _____
• _____		• _____

Rural Opportunity Institute

Here is an example of the Validation Template that educators use to define their assumptions of how their users will respond to their solutions and then perform tests to gather evidence. These activities are done in pursuit of building solutions based on the user's actual needs.

How You Can Help:

- **We are hiring:** Please refer any great candidates in your network!
 - [Small Bets Lab Summer Associate \(remote summer internship\)](#) - deadline April 15th

What's Next:

- **ROI's Virtual Quarterly Community Meeting:** You are invited to our next ROI Edgecombe ACEs/Resilience Community Meeting.
 - You will connect with others in the community who are passionate about trauma-informed work, hear the latest updates from ROI and our

community partners, and learn new ways to apply resilience skills/tools in your own life and work.

- Please share this information with anyone else who might be interested – all are welcome.
 - i. When: 12 pm EST on Wednesday, April 21
 - ii. Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/Apr21ACESMeeting>
- More info on keynote speaker:

Keynote Speaker: Melissa McCoy



Melissa McCoy is a data & change management consultant working primarily in the education and social sectors who spent five years with a community-based organization in Cincinnati called [StrivePartnership](#), where she led their efforts around building the community's capacity to use real-time data & continuous improvement to drive day-to-day actions.

One of Melissa's biggest goals is to dispel the myth that data works and big consulting firms have been peddling for years: that you need expensive data systems or full-time analysts to drive improvement. All you really need is a clear target, real-time measures that connect to that target, and a change process to ensure the rigor needed to stay on track.

"When people ask me what I do, the simple answer is, 'I help empower people to get better at getting better.'"

When: 12 pm EST on Wednesday, April 21

Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/Apr21ACESMeeting>

Note: This keynote speech is during ROI's spring Edgcombe ACEs & Resilience Community Meeting from 12:00 to 1:30 pm

- **Regional Conference: ACEs & Addictive Disease: The BIG Picture!:** Join us on Thursday, May 20th at 9 am for this virtual conference, hosted by Area L AHEC. Hear from Eastern North Carolina native, 13-year old [Elijah Lee](#) (pictured below) and Dr. Stephen Loyd, MD, CMO at [JourneyPure Rehabilitation](#), who has been named America's #1 Trauma-Informed Addiction Treatment Experts.
 - To register: [click here](#)



In partnership,

Vichi Jagannathan

Seth Saeugling

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PAST UPDATES

[Linked here](#)