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## CELEBRATE EDUCATION NIGHT AT RIIFF

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

We take great pride and pleasure in announcing that the Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) is presenting **Producers Circle Awards** to three very special friends of the educational film community—**Sherilyn Brown**, **Dana Neugent** and **Low Place**—on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at The Vets in Providence, Rhode Island. This award is presented to members of the community who have actively worked to support and promote the mission of Flickers: The Rhode Island International Film Festival.

**Sherilyn Brown**, Education Director for Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, has worked closely with the Film Office on the Give Me Five Teen Film Festival for the past several years and has been a tireless supporter of media education for young Rhode Islanders. Her vast experience and knowledge have enhanced arts education in our beautiful Ocean State for more than 25 years.

**Dana Neugent** is the Media Supervisor at URI's Kingston Campus and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Film/Media Program. Dana has been in the film/video business for more than 25 years. He has worked on commercials, marketing videos, educational videos, documentaries, news stories and short and feature length films. He is also currently on the Advisory Board of Directors for the Rhode Island Film Collaborative and has won numerous national and regional awards for his film and video work. In 2009, he was awarded the Metcalf Diversity in Media Award by Rhode Island Community for Social Justice.

**Low Place** has served as the Webmaster/Location Photographer for the Rhode Island Film & Television Office since April 2007. He is also an accomplished editor who has contributed to many promotional and educational videos, as well as a motion picture and television prop maker. He has helped build a very user-friendly website for the Film Office, and his unique photographs have been published in and on the covers of many national and international magazines and newspapers.

Following the awards presentation will be a screening of "**PELL GRANTS: A PASSION FOR EDUCATION**," a documentary film by **Steven Feinberg** that highlights the compelling, often suspenseful, battles privately waged behind closed doors in Washington, D.C., during the 1970s. Also showcased are leaders who have been positively impacted by the Pell Grant, those who fiercely oppose the program, and the current fight for the survival of the Pell Grants by a wave of students actively promoting their views through social networking and media. The war for the future of American education has begun. Who will win?

A Q&A with a panel consisting of the filmmakers and legendary special guests, moderated by veteran award-winning investigative reporter **Jim Taricani** of WJAR-TV, will close out the program.

Tickets are available for \$10 at the door or online at [www.rifilmfest.org](http://www.rifilmfest.org). Call 401-861-4445 for additional information.

**THE FLICKERS' BACKSTORY & MISSION:**

The mission of the **Flickers, the Newport Film Society & Arts Collaborative** - now in its **31st year** - has been to serve as a creative partner in the arts by uniting various media and arts disciplines that nurture the artistic process and support a vital part of our community. This includes multi- disciplinary art presentations; artistic and cultural activities; performance festivals; video and television productions; audio recordings and broadcasts; educational outreach programs; and the **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)**.

**ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:**

The **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)**, has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best in international independent cinema, earning the respect of domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. This confluence of art and commerce brings together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and audience members in record numbers each year. Ranked as one of the top 12 Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is also a qualifying festival for the Short Film Academy Award through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. RIIFF is one of 75 film festivals worldwide—and the only in New England—to have this distinction. The Festival takes place every August. For more information about the festival, please visit [www.rifilmfest.org](http://www.rifilmfest.org).

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