

2024

VERMONT COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

FORGE FORWARD; THRIVE TOGETHER

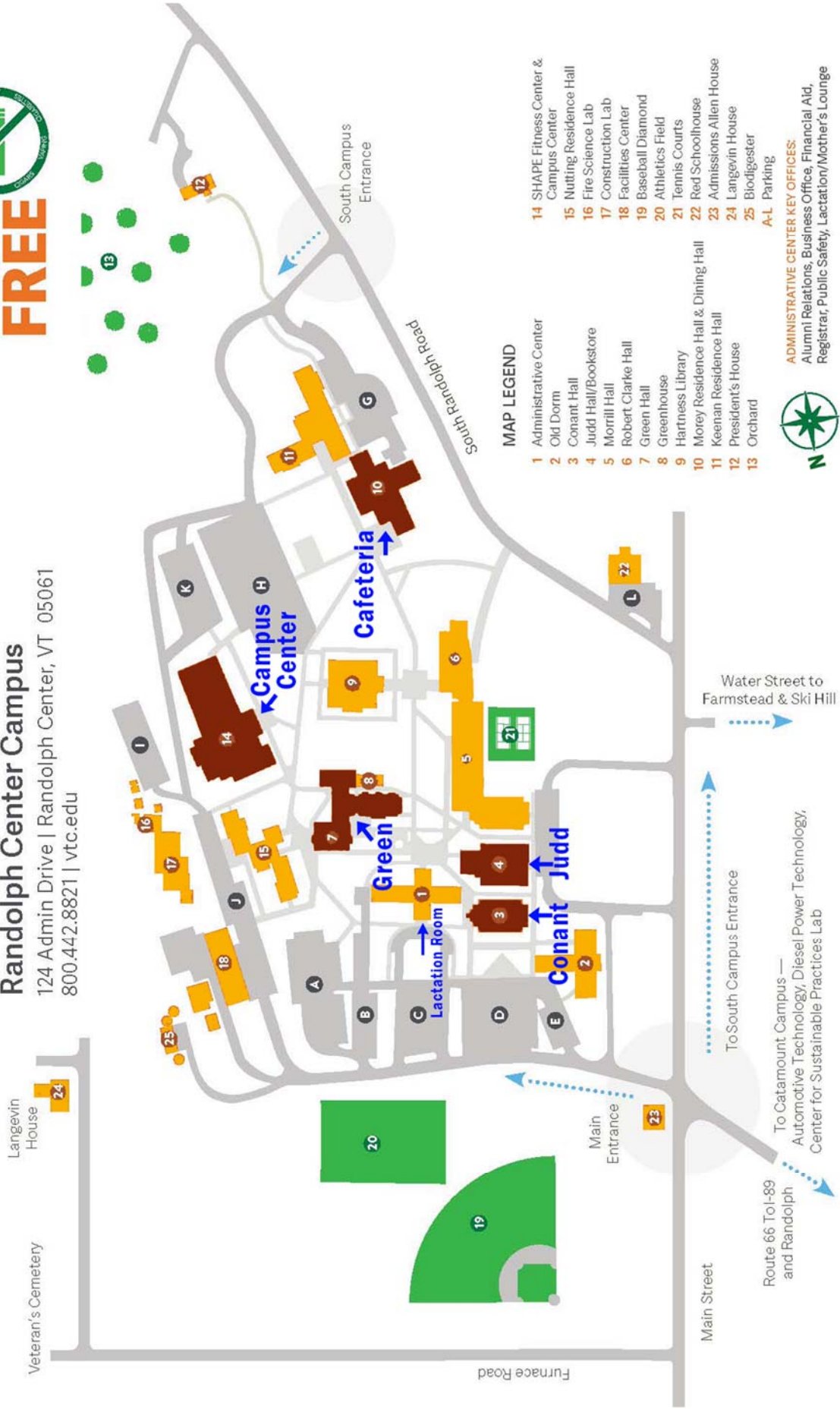


August 6, 2024
Vermont State University
Randolph, Vermont

Vermont State University

Randolph Center Campus

124 Admin Drive | Randolph Center, VT 05061
800.442.8821 | vtc.edu



MAP LEGEND

- 1 Administrative Center
- 2 Old Dorm
- 3 Conant Hall
- 4 Judd Hall/Bookstore
- 5 Morrill Hall
- 6 Robert Clarke Hall
- 7 Green Hall
- 8 Greenhouse
- 9 Hartness Library
- 10 Morey Residence Hall & Dining Hall
- 11 Keenan Residence Hall
- 12 Langevin House
- 13 Orchard
- 14 SHAPE Fitness Center & Campus Center
- 15 Nutting Residence Hall
- 16 Fire Science Lab
- 17 Construction Lab
- 18 Facilities Center
- 19 Baseball Diamond
- 20 Athletics Field
- 21 Tennis Courts
- 22 Red Schoolhouse
- 23 Admissions Allen House
- 24 Langevin House
- 25 Bioldgester
- A-L Parking



ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER KEY OFFICES:
Alumni Relations, Business Office, Financial Aid, Registrar, Public Safety, Lactation/Mother's Lounge

Veteran's Cemetery

Langevin House

Main Street

Furnace Road

South Randolph Road

Water Street to Farmstead & Ski Hill

Route 66 To I-89 and Randolph

To Catamount Campus — Automotive Technology, Diesel Power Technology, Center for Sustainable Practices Lab

To South Campus Entrance

Main Entrance

South Campus Entrance

Campus Center

Cafeteria

Green

Judd

Conant

Lactation Room

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Welcome!

5th Vermont Community Leadership Summit

Forge Forward; Thrive Together

We are excited to welcome local leaders to this year's Vermont Community Leadership Summit. Participants here today include youth, municipal leaders, community organizers and volunteers, people with lived experience with critical challenges facing our communities, experts and technical assistance providers, regional, state, & national leaders, and others working to improve the economies and quality of life of their communities.

In 2018, 2019, 2022, and 2023 hundreds of Vermonters joined together at VCRD's Community Leadership Summits to explore ways to support local leadership and our shared democracy. We have seen tremendous challenges and change since, and today's Summit is another opportunity to come together for renewal and rejuvenation as we engage with fellow Vermonters, make new connections, celebrate community successes, talk through shared challenges, and think proactively about the future.

This event will be an opportunity to dig into what it takes for a community to thrive – capacity, economic vitality, emergency preparedness, youth engagement, inclusion, engagement, and more – and will offer a diverse range of topics tailored to support and connect people in all aspects of local vitality and resilience. Through workshops, panels, and networking sessions, attendees will gain insights to drive local initiatives, build connections and resources, and exchange success stories and best practices. New this year are optional participation pathways which attendees can choose to follow: Climate Resilience and Long-term Recovery; Youth Leadership and Engagement; and Understanding and Solving Our Persistent Challenges. Lunch will be available for pickup at both Judd Hall and the cafeteria— whichever is more convenient. And be sure to come back to Judd Hall at the end of the day for Ben & Jerry's ice cream!

A vibrant democracy requires all of us to step forward in different ways. Local leadership is the key ingredient in building unity, setting direction, and achieving progress. Thanks for being with us and stepping forward for your community, Vermont, and our collective future!



Charlie Smith, *Interim Executive Director*
Vermont Council on Rural Development

VCRD Leadership Award



Charlie Hancock

VCRD's Community Leadership Award celebrates Vermonters who exemplify dedication, integrity and honorable service to community and to rural Vermont, and who have had a transformational effect on their communities. We present the award to highlight the work of community heroes who epitomize the best spirit of local community service, and whose work has made their community a better place.

Charlie epitomizes the best of service to community. He has been chair of the Montgomery Selectboard since 2016, is vice-chair of the Vermont Land Trust Board of Trustees, sits on the Vermont League of Cities and Towns Board of Directors, and is vice-chair of the State of Vermont's Working Lands Enterprise Board. While on the Selectboard in Montgomery, he helped to lead the community through several critical community development initiatives including a major village street scape and wastewater initiative – a project prioritized in Montgomery's 2018 Community Visit process. Charlie also served as the chair of the Future of Vermont Action Team, a group convened by VCRD to advance the elements of the Vermont Proposition.

In his work life, Charlie serves as the Franklin and Grand Isle County Forester with the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. Prior to that, he was a consulting forester and conservationist at North Woods Forestry for close to two decades, working with private landowners and non-profits across northern Vermont. Before taking over North Woods Forestry in 2007, Charlie worked as an operations forester with Upland Forestry and the Lyme Timber Co. in the Adirondack region of New York. In addition to his work as a licensed Forester, Charlie is co-founder and President of Cold Hollow to Canada, a community-based regional conservation partnership located in the Northern Greens. Charlie received undergraduate degrees in Forestry and Recreation Management from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Vermont.

It is an honor to recognize Charlie, a tremendous community leader who dedicates his time, skills, and talents to lifting up his community and Vermont.

Agenda-At-A-Glance

#VTCommunityLeaders

- 9:00 Welcome and Overview of the Day**
- 9:15 Callum Robeck, Composer and 2024 graduate of Montpelier High School Performing “Water Buries, Too”**
- 9:20 Presentation of VCRD’s 2024 Vermont Community Leadership Award**
- 9:40 Plenary Panel: Forge Forward; Thrive Together**
- 10:35 BREAK**
- 10:45 Breakouts: Workshops, Panels, and Networking Sessions**
- Noon LUNCH**
- 1:15 Breakouts**
- 2:30 BREAK**
- 2:45 Breakouts**
- 4:00 Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream!!**



Wi-Fi: Choose “VSCGuest” in Wi-Fi settings. Scroll to the bottom of screen, click “sign in” then:
username: [RandolphWIFI](#)
Password: [go2VTSU](#)

Lactation Room available in the Administrative Center (#1 on map)

#VTCommunityLeaders



Breakout Room Locations:

10:45am

W1.....Green 124
W2.....Judd Hall
W3y.....Campus Center
P1cGreen 128
P2Green 216
P3s.....Conant 102
P4yGreen 224
P5Green 228
P6s.....Green 116
N1.....Conant 101

1:15pm

W4.....Judd Hall
W5sGreen 116
W6sGreen 124
W7.....Conant 102
W8y.....Green 128
P7Green 216
P8Green 228
P10s....Green 224
P11c ...Campus Center
N2.....Conant 101

2:45pm

W8c.... Conant 101
W9..... Green 224
W10s.. Campus Center
P12 Green 116
P13y ... Green 124
P14 Green 128
P15c ... Conant 102
P16s ... Judd Hall
N3s..... Green 216

Affinity Space - Conant 103

SESSION KEY

Workshop **P**anel **N**etworking

PARTICIPATION PATHWAYS KEY

c - Climate Resilience and Long-term Recovery
y - Youth Leadership and Engagement
s - Understanding and Solving Our Persistent Challenges

Affinity Space: Hosted by the Vermont Professional of Color Network (VTPoC), the space is open to Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color in Conant 103 throughout the day, and will be staffed during lunch and at 4pm. VTPoC will have a welcoming table from 8-9am in Judd Hall.

Agenda ~ visit vtrural.org/summit for session descriptions

8:00 *Registration* | Coffee and Pastries..... **Judd Hall**

9:00 **Summit Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Overview of the Day**

Shannon Barsotti, *VCRD Board Vice Chair*

Jenna Koloski, *VCRD Community Engagement & Policy Director*

Jessica Savage, *VCRD Director of Community Collaboration*

Opening Performance: “Water Buries, Too”

Callum Robeck, *Composer and 2024 graduate of Montpelier High School*

9:20 **Presentation of VCRD Community Leadership Award to**

Charlie Hancock

9:40 **Plenary Panel: Forge Forward; Thrive Together**

MODERATOR: Mitch Wertlieb, *Vermont Public*

PANESLISTS: Jon Copans, Montpelier | Martha Dale, Londonderry |

Bill Moore, Brandon | Shawna Trader, Barre

10:35 *Break*

10:45 Breakout Sessions

Session Key

Optional Pathways Key:

Workshops

 Climate Resilience and Long-term Recovery

Panels

 youth Leadership and Engagement

Networking

 Understanding and Solving Our Persistent Challenges

W1 **Project Management 101: From Vision to Planning..... Green 124 to Implementation**

PRESENTER: Jenna Lapachinski, *Preservation Trust of Vermont*

W2 **Inspiring Meaningful Action: Building Resilient Teams Judd Hall**

PRESENTERS: Liz Dallas and Paul Toth, *Vital Leadership Coaching*

 W3y **Cultivating Wellbeing and Civic Participation..... Campus Center For Rural Youth**

PRESENTERS: Kim Phinney, *Rural Youth Catalyst* | Abby Kiesa, *Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE)*, Tisch College, Tufts University

 **P1c Dusting Off the Plan: Local Disaster and Emergency.....Green 128 Response**

MODERATOR: Alyssa Johnson, *VT Council on Rural Development*

PANELISTS: Taiga Christie, *VT Emergency Management* | Eric Pulver, *VT Department of Health* | Alyssa Sabetto, *Windham Regional Commission*

P2 Clean Heat Standard: What Is It Intended to Do and.....Green 216 What Does It Mean for Vermonters

MODERATOR: Curtiss Reed, *VT Partnership for Fairness & Diversity*

PANELISTS: Jared Duval, *VT Climate Council* | John McCormick, *Louise Diamond Committee to Protect Next Generations* | Edward McNamara, *VT Public Utility Commission* | Mia Watson, *VT Housing Finance Agency*

 **P3s Boosting Capacity in Small Towns: Vermont’s Volunteer..... Conant 102 Reliance Challenge**

MODERATOR: Laura Sibia, *Brattleboro Development Credit Corp*

PANELISTS: Josh Hanford, *VT League of Cities and Towns* | Sam Lash, *Central VT Regional Planning Commission* | Megan Matthers, *KURRVE* | Lindsay O’Steen, *Hardwick Rescue Squad*

 **P4y Community Centers and Hubs Green 224**

MODERATOR: Jen Carlo, *NEK Collaborative*

PANELISTS: Brian Bontrager, *Bridgewater Community Center* | Ryon Frink, *Odd Fellows Hall* | Taylor Welch, *Bristol Hub*

P5 Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Green 228

MODERATOR: Saudia Lamont, *Lamoille County Working Communities Challenge*

PANELISTS: Lydia Clemmons, *Clemmons Family Farm* | Daniel Franklin, *Jenna’s Promise* | Kheya Ganguly, *VT Agency of Human Services* | Jessica Kell, *Washington County Mental Health* | Pam Wilson, *Arts and Mental Health Project, Barre*

 **P6s Water, Wastewater: Building Community Support, Green 116 Decision Points, Innovative Solutions**

MODERATOR: Katie Buckley, *VT League of Cities and Towns*

PANELISTS: Chris Campany, *Windham Regional Commission* | Lynette Claudon, *VT Department of Environmental Conservation* | Charlie Hancock, *Montgomery Selectboard* | Seth Jensen, *Lamoille Regional Planning Comm.*

N1 Community Project Networking.....Conant 101

LEADER: Jessica Savage, *VT Council on Rural Development*

Engage with peers to learn about each other’s work, use peer consulting tools, and practice with others.

Agenda ~ vtrural.org/summit for session descriptions

12:00 *Lunch*.....**Morey Dining Hall** and **Judd Hall**

1:15pm Breakout Sessions

- W4 **Community Engagement: Building Trust and Impact**..... **Judd Hall**
PRESENTERS: Indra Acharya, *Independent Consultant* | Denise Bailey, *Capstone Community Action*
-  W5s **Addressing Digital Equity and Broadband Expansion: Green 116**
A Case Study from the Northeast Kingdom
PRESENTER: Paige Hartsell, *Northeast Kingdom Community Action*
-  W6s **Increasing Housing Options in Your Community Green 124**
(workshop discussion)
PRESENTERS: Thomas J. Badowski, *Town of Berlin* | John Dunbar, *Town of Rockingham* | Jake Hemmerick, *VT Department of Housing and Community Development* | Barry Lampke, *Northwest Regional Planning Commission* | Chip Sawyer, *Town of St. Albans*
- W7 **Moving Through Conflict: Difficult Conversations in Conant 102**
Complex Situations
PRESENTER: Susan Sgorbati, *Bennington College*
-  W8y **What Can Youth Teach Us About Civic Engagement Green 128**
PRESENTERS: Lindsey Halman, Pat Laclair, Ana Lindert-Boyes, Cashel Higgins, and Auishma Pradhan, *UP for Learning* | Robyn Palmer and Ethan Schmitt, *VT Secretary of State's Office* | Chris Sheehan, *Twinfield High School*
- P7 **Vermont's Inclusive and Thriving Economy Green 216**
MODERATOR: Amanda Janoo, *WEAll*
PANELISTS: Lindsey Berk, *Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN)* | Beth Kennett, *Liberty Hill Farm* | Roxanne Vought, *VT Businesses for Social Responsibility*
- P8 **Community Trusts for Locally Led Revitalization Green 228**
MODERATOR: Kaziah Haviland, *VT Council on Rural Development*
PANELISTS: Trevor Braun, *Elmore Community Trust* | Nicole Gratton, *Preservation Trust of VT* | Holly Morehouse, *VT Community Foundation*
-  P10s **Act 250 Modernization: Collaborating to Create Green 224**
Livable Communities
MODERATOR: Kati Gallagher, *VT Natural Resources Council*
PANELISTS: Kathy Beyer, *Evernorth* | Catherine Dimitruk, *Northwest Regional Planning Commission* | Jenny Ronis, *VT Natural Resources Board* | Megan Sullivan, *VT Chamber of Commerce*

 **P11c Planning, Adaptation, Action! Strategies for Campus Center
Community Implementing Resilience**

MODERATOR: Devon Neary, Rutland Regional Planning Commission

PANELISTS: Travis Samuels, ZION Growers | Meg Staloff, Brattleboro
Development Credit Corp | Becka Warren, VT Sustainable Jobs Fund |
Marian Wolz, Climate Action Office of VT Agency of Natural Resources

N2 Persistent Problem Networking Session.....Conant 101

LEADER: Jenna Koloski, VT Council on Rural Development

A World Café style session to engage in deeper discussion around the
persistent problems faced by communities today.

2:30 Break

2:45pm Breakout Sessions

 **W8c 'Barre'd Alive: Grassroots Volunteer Coordination.....Conant 101
and Creating Resilient Community in Time of Need**

PRESENTERS: Adam Jacobs, Barre Volunteer Coordination Team | Shawna
Trader, The Rainbow Bridge Community Center | Hazel Turrone, Barre
Volunteer Coordination Team

W9 Effective Meetings and Facilitation / Facilitation 101..... Green 224

PRESENTERS: Jenna Koloski and Jessica Savage, VT Council on Rural
Development

 **W10s Finding "Both/And" Solutions to Your Community's..... Campus Center
Hard Questions**

PRESENTER: Susan Clark, Slow Democracy

P12 Universal Accessibility in Your Community Green 116

MODERATOR: Sarah Launderville, VT Center for Independent Living

PANELISTS: Jay Greene, VT Office of Racial Equity | Peter Janke, VT Center for
Independent Living | Rebecca Lalanne, Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services

 **P13y The Community Schools Model (panel discussion).....Green 124**

MODERATOR: Lauren Brady, VT Council on Rural Development

PANELISTS: Johannes Haensch, VT Agency of Education | Peter Knox,
University of VT | Kasey Potter, Hazen Union High School

P14 The of Role Arts in Community ResilienceGreen 128

MODERATOR: Susan Evans McClure, VT Arts Council


PANELISTS: Janet Dandridge, Artist | Rose Friedman, Civic Standard | Pam
Wilson, Barre Arts and Mental Health Project

Agenda ~ vtrural.org/summit for session descriptions

 P15c **Resilience Hubs for Rural Communities** **Conant 102**

MODERATOR: Laura Cavin Bailey, *VT Council on Rural Development*

PANELISTS: Michelle Eddelman McCormick, *Marshfield Cooperative, Inc.* | Peg Elmer Hough, *Town of Cabot* | Sam Lash, *Central VT Regional Planning Commission* | Caroline Paske, *VT Emergency Management*

 P16s **Small Towns, Big Challenges: Exploring Regional**..... **Judd Hall Collaboration**

MODERATOR: Paul Costello, *Independent Consultant / Facilitator*

PANELISTS: Katie Buckley, *VT League of Cities and Towns* | Catherine Dimitruk, *Northwest Regional Planning Commission* | Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, *University of Vermont* | Trey Martin, *VT Housing & Conservation Board*

 N3s **BYOP: Connecting with Resource Leaders to**..... **Green 216 Discuss YOUR Project**

LEADER: Andy Barker, *Vermont Community Foundation*

RESOURCES: Gary Holloway, *VT Department of Housing & Community Development* | Kevin Lambert, *USDA Rural Development* | Kate Neubauer, *Vermont Community Foundation* | Haley Pero, *Office of US Senator Bernie Sanders* | Beth Rusnock, *National Life Foundation*

4:00 *Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream!*..... **Judd Hall**

Opening Performer

Callum Robeck *Composer and 2024 graduate of Montpelier High School*

Callum is performing his original piece “Water Buries, Too,” which he composed after the July 2023 flood hit his hometown of Montpelier. Callum is an 18 year old Composer, Multi-instrumentalist, Songwriter, and Music Producer with ambition. He enjoys playing in anything from jazz combos, to classical orchestras, to pop bands, and sings in choir. He wants to inspire and create unique tapestries of sound with his music. Callum will be attending NYU Steinhardt next year to study composition in New York City.



Speakers

Indra Acharya *Independent Consultant* | acharyaindraj@gmail.com

W4. Community Engagement: Building Trust and Impact (workshop)

Indra, a resident of Essex Junction, resettled in Vermont in 2012 from a Bhutanese refugee camp in Nepal. Currently the Co-Director of the HRSA Rural Behavioral Health Workforce Centers grant and an academic coach at Harvard GSE, he has designed and implemented various statewide programs, such as the Covid Equity Fund for Vermonters without documentation (Vermont Community Foundation), engagement and empowerment of low-income individuals on climate justice (Community Action Partnership agencies), BIPOC outreach for state budget priorities (Fund Vermont’s Future campaign), and as an Integrator for Vermont Community Health Equity Partnership grant in central Vermont (THRIVE). Indra also serves as a consultant, coach, and facilitator for various nonprofit and for-profit organizations, political campaigns, and educational institutions on policy, strategy, community engagement, and DEIB initiatives at the local and national levels.

Thomas J. Badowski *Assistant Town Administrator Town of Berlin* | zoning@berlinvt.gov

W6s. Increasing Housing Options in your Community (workshop discussion)

Tom Badowski has worked at the Town of Berlin for 11 years bringing his private sector civil engineering background to the fastest growing community in Central Vermont. During his tenure he has shepherded the Town’s \$8M municipal water system, \$5M wastewater expansion, and the third New Town Center designation in the 25-year history of the State Designation program.

Denise Bailey *Directly of Equity, Engagement, and Advocacy Capstone Community Action* | dbailey@capstonevt.org

W4. Community Engagement: Building Trust and Impact (workshop)

Denise Bailey is a Vermont attorney who currently serves as Director of Equity, Engagement, and Advocacy at Capstone Community Action. A graduate of Yale University and the University of Virginia School of Law, Attorney Bailey has served as the Equal Employment Officer for the State of Vermont, and she has served non-profits and low-income communities. She completed her legal clerkship at the Vermont Human Rights Commission, and has practiced civil rights law in the area of employment. Attorney Bailey has lived in central Vermont for over 20 years, and enjoys spending time with her sons, cross-country skiing, swimming, and hiking.

Speakers

Andy Barker *Program Officer* Vermont Community Foundation |

abarker@vermontcf.org

N3s. BYOI - Connecting with Resource Leaders to Discuss YOUR project (networking)

Andy Barker is a program officer at the Vermont Community Foundation with a portfolio that spans Health and Well-being and Education and Training. He has also worked extensively on long-term flood recovery since the July 2023 floods across Vermont. Previously, he worked as the founder and Project Director of the Burlington City & Lake Semester, a Social Mission manager at Ben & Jerry's, and a humanities teacher in independent schools. He is a believer in the power of community.

Lindsey Berk *Executive Director* ACORN | lindsey@acornvt.org

P7. Vermont's Inclusive and Thriving Economy (panel)

Lindsey joined ACORN in 2015 as the Director of Marketing and Development and has served as Executive Director since 2021. In addition to working to improve small farm viability and food sovereignty, Lindsey works with emerging, grassroots groups to further build community resilience. Lindsey lives in Brandon with her partner, two cats, dog and a revolving cast of chickens where they collectively enjoy an abundance of food grown on one-third of an acre.

Kathy Beyer *Senior Vice President for Real Estate Development* Evernorth |

KBeyer@evernorthus.org

P10s. Act 250 Modernization: Collaborating to Create Livable Communities (panel)

Ms. Beyer leads the real estate development activity at Evernorth, a nonprofit development corporation working to serve communities in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont and is currently active in housing and energy equity policy work. Kathy holds a Masters in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School, and a B.A. from the University of Minnesota.

Brian Bontrager *Bridgewater Community Center* | brianbontrager76@gmail.com

P4y. Community Centers and Hubs (panel)

Brian has spent the past thirty years serving the community as a member of the Bridgewater School Board, the Windsor Central Supervisory Union School board, Bridgewater Select Board, and the Bridgewater Planning Commission. His most recent project involved saving and converting the Bridgewater Elementary School into a community center. Phases one and two are complete, with a thriving child care center and working to create spaces for Seniors and supportive agencies, as well as rooms for movement classes. Brian also operates a construction company.

Lauren Brady *Community and Policy Associate* VCRD | lauren@vtrural.org

P13y. Panel Discussion: the Community Schools Model (panel discussion)

Lauren primarily does community outreach for VCRD and has recently been working on the Youth Opportunity Initiative, in which VCRD worked to take the pulse of what's needed for youth to thrive across the state. Through that research, Community Schools were identified as a key ingredient for youth success. Lauren has worked off and on with youth in community engagement since 2014.

Trevor Braun *Board Secretary* Elmore Community Trust | trevorcbraun@gmail.com

P8. Community Trusts for Locally Led Revitalization (panel)

Trevor grew up in Elmore and upon returning to Vermont after college and work experiences in Boston and New Zealand, he followed through on his childhood plans to build and live in a small cabin somewhere in the woods of Elmore. Trevor has been a part of the engineering team at

Concept2 in Morrisville for the last 17 years and is currently a volunteer firefighter with the Elmore Fire Department.

Katie Buckley *Director* Federal Funding Assistance Program, VLCT | kbuckley@vlct.org

P6s. Community Water and Wastewater: Building Community Support, Decision Points, Innovative Solutions (panel)

Katie Buckley is the Director of the Federal Funding Assistance Program for the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Katie provides expertise and technical support to Vermont's towns, cities, and villages as they pursue unprecedented amounts of federal funding to advance their local priorities and initiatives. She works closely with State, Federal, and statewide partners to ensure that municipalities not only have access to these funds but also the resources they need to move their projects from ideation to implementation. Prior to joining the League, Katie was a Principal with M&S Development, served as the Commissioner for the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, ACCD, was the Director of Real Estate Development for Windham & Windsor Housing Trust and served as the Town of Guilford's first Town Administrator for almost a decade. She is a passionate advocate for Vermont's communities and understands firsthand the critical role local government plays in the daily lives of all Vermonters.

Chris Campany *Executive Director* Windham Regional Planning Commission |

ccampany@windhamregional.org

P6s. Community Water and Wastewater: Building Community Support, Decision Points, Innovative Solutions (panel)

Chris Campany is Executive Director of the Windham Regional Commission based in Brattleboro which serves 27 towns in Southeastern Vermont. He was previously Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture and Graduate Program Coordinator at Mississippi State University; Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning for Calvert County, Maryland; Deputy Commissioner of Planning for Orange County, New York; Federal Policy Coordinator for the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture; founder and Executive Director of the Baton Rouge Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance; and a Presidential Management Intern with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC.

Jen Carlo *Executive Director* NEK Collaborative | jennifer@nekcollaborative.org

P4y. Community Centers and Hubs (panel)

Jennifer Carlo has served as the executive director of the Northeast Kingdom Collaborative since 2021. Prior to that, she worked in higher education for more than 25 years, most recently as a vice president for student affairs and dean of students. Jen spent a few years as the dean of students at Goddard in the late 1990s and made the mistake of moving away from Vermont, only to spend many years trying to get back! To come back to Vermont, she ran off with the circus in 2017 and was the executive director at Circus Smirkus for three years. Jen also serves as an adjunct professor at Carlow University. She's mildly obsessed with the fiber arts, and as a side gig she owns a yarn store in Waterbury and serves as the president of the Green Mountain Knitting Guild. She has an AB in sociology from Princeton, an MA in education from Goddard and an MBA from Carlow, and a PhD in leadership and change from Antioch University.

Laura Cavin Bailey *Climate Economy Program Manager* Vermont Council on Rural Development | laura@vtrural.org

P15c. Resilience Hubs for Rural Communities (panel)

Laura Cavin Bailey (she/her) is the Climate Economy Program Manager at the Vermont Council on Rural Development, where she manages the initiatives to support local leaders, town energy committees, or other community groups in developing equitable climate solutions. Laura's

Speakers

diverse work experience includes solar electric system design and installation, biodiesel production, a research fellow at the Energy Studies in Buildings Lab at the University of Oregon, an instructor at Yestermorrow Design/Build School, and as a practicing architect of net-zero energy buildings. Laura serves as the president of the Vermont Green Building Network and can be found exploring the forests and rivers around her home in Fayston with her family.

Taiga Christie *Southern Regional Coordinator* Vermont Emergency Management | Taiga.christie@vermont.gov

P1c. Dusting Off the Plan: Local Disaster and Emergency Response (panel)

Taiga Christie serves as the Southern Regional Coordinator for Vermont Emergency Management. Her previous background is public health and emergency medical services. She is a member of the state USAR team and Southeastern Vermont Technical Rescue, and also works in community-based theater, often on public health, disaster preparedness and community resilience themes.

Susan Clark *Founder, Consultant* Slow Democracy | sclarkmountains@gmail.com

W10s. Finding “Both/And” Solutions to Your Community’s Hard Questions (workshop)

Susan Clark is a writer and educator focusing on community sustainability and engagement. She is coauthor of *Slow Democracy* (www.slowdemocracy.org); and *All Those In Favor*, a book about Vermont town meetings. Susan consults with communities across the northeast on how to build inclusive, deliberative, and empowered public participation. She serves as Middlesex town moderator.

Lynnette Claudon *Senior Water Infrastructure Program Engineer* VT Department of Environmental Conservation | Lynnette.Claudon@vermont.gov

P6s. Community Water and Wastewater: Building Community Support, Decision Points, Innovative Solutions (panel)

Lynnette Claudon is a Vermont Professional Engineer working for 11 years in the DEC Water Investment Division’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund as their Senior Water Infrastructure Program Engineer. She holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering and a B.A. in French Language from the University of Maine. She was a consulting engineer in the municipal utility and site development sectors for 15 years before starting her current role.

Lydia Clemmons *Owner* Clemmons Family Farm | lydia@clemmonsfamilyfarm.org

P5. Community Health and Wellbeing (panel)

Lydia Clemmons, PhD, MPH is a medical anthropologist with a 35-year career leading ethnographic research and community development programs in the US and more than 20 African countries. Beginning her international work as a Peace Corps Volunteer in rural Democratic Republic of Congo, Dr. Clemmons has worked for the US Agency for International Development, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and numerous US nonprofit organizations working in international development. She is internationally recognized for her innovative work integrating arts and culture into effective public health, education, agriculture, and social change programming. She grew up on her family’s farm in Vermont and returned in 2013 to help her parents preserve the farm - one of just 0.4% of all farms in the US that is African-American owned - for future generations - by gradually transitioning into a 501c3 nonprofit organization. She is the recipient of the 2021 Con Hogan Award from the Vermont Community Foundation, the 2021 Arthur Williams Award for Meritorious Service to the Arts from the Vermont Arts Council, and the 2022 NAACP-Rutland Branch Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Clemmons holds a PhD in Medical Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania

in Philadelphia, a Master in Public Health from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and a BA in Human Biology from Stanford University.

Jon Copans *Executive Director* Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience
Montpelier | jon@montpelierstrong.org

Plenary Fishbowl: Forge Forward, Thrive Together

Jon Copans is Executive Director of the Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience. Previously he worked at Old Spokes Home, the VT Council for Rural Development, the VT Public Service Dept., the VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation and for (then) Congressman Peter Welch. Jon grew up in Brattleboro, graduated from Macalester College, and lives in Montpelier with his wife and three kids.

Paul Costello *Independent Consultant / Facilitator* | pcostello802@gmail.com

P16s. Small Towns, Big Challenges: Exploring Regional Collaboration (panel)

Paul Costello served as the Executive Director of the Vermont Council on Rural Development from 2000 to 2021. Paul has provided facilitation on rural development policy at the local, regional and state level, including initiating and leading more than a dozen major rural policy council efforts, and has built significant programs to advance the digital economy, the working landscape, climate economy, and community leadership development. Paul attended UVM before earning a PhD in intellectual history at McGill. He has served on boards ranging from corrections education to cooperatives, philanthropies, libraries and Governor's commissions, including co-chairing the Climate Action Team and chairing the Local Support and Community Action Team of the Vermont Covid-19 Recovery Task Force. He is past president of the national community development association, Partners for Rural America.

Martha Dale *Selectboard Member* Londonderry | mdale242@gmail.com

Plenary Fishbowl: Forge Forward, Thrive Together

Martha Dale serves as a member of the Londonderry Selectboard. She has 30+ years of non-profit management experience, having practiced healthcare leadership in a variety of organizations. Her most recent work was with the Yale Global Leadership Institute where she ran large scale international healthcare management practice improvement research programs.

Liz Dallas *Owner* Vital Leadership Coaching | lizd@vitalleadershipcoaching.com,
wayfinder@vitalleadershipcoaching.com

W2 - Inspiring Meaningful Action: Building Resilient Teams Liz Dallas helps leaders shift their thinking to support a 21st Century landscape – one that changes fast, is increasingly complex and presents exponential uncertainty. The typical lens of leadership is insufficient to ensure sustainable success. Liz developed the A to B Paradigm Shifter to help you look through a new lens. The highly experiential processes are based on research that produces deeper, more meaningful understanding and implementation in a world of possibility.

Janet Dandridge *Artist* | janet@janetedandridge.com

P14. The Role of Arts in Community Resilience (panel)

janet e. dandridge is a mother, interdisciplinary activist, arts & activism educator and consultant, liberator, listener, empathy sustainer. janet's works include performances, installations, photography and mixed-media reflections on misogynoir, social contracts, and empathy. She is a member of the Black Coalition Fighting Back Serial Murders, W.A.G.E. (Working Artists and the Greater Economy), and League of Women Voters. janet creates interdisciplinary works and programs that inspire deep thinking, forward progress, spiritual investigation and joy. janet earned a Master of Fine Arts from Otis College of Art & Design, and is a professor of Art at George Mason University.

Speakers

Catherine Dimitruk *Executive Director* Northwest Regional Planning Commission | cdimitruk@nrpcvt.com

P10s. Act 250 Modernization: Collaborating to Create Livable Communities (panel) - AND - P16s. Small Towns, Big Challenges: Exploring Regional Collaboration (panel)

Catherine Dimitruk has been Executive Director of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission in St. Albans for 25+ years. She works with communities and regional organizations on comprehensive planning and project implementation. She serves on several boards and commissions and is the current chair of the VT Association of Planning and Development Agencies.

John Dunbar Co-owner of Whitaker Properties, Inc; Rockingham Select Board Member | jbdinvt@gmail.com

W6s. Workshop Discussion: Increasing Housing Options in your Community (workshop discussion)

John is co-owner with his twin brother Jeff of Whitaker Properties, Inc., a small-scale housing development company in Bellows Falls that focuses on improving the standard of housing in their hometown through financial investment, sweat equity, and enhanced landlord-tenant relationships. John is also a member of the Rockingham Planning Commission and was elected to the Rockingham Select Board in April. John works in the home weatherization sector and is a former elite age group Ironman triathlete competing in the 2015 Hawaii Ironman World Championship.

Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux *Distinguished Professor & VT State Climatologist* University of Vermont | lesley-ann.dupigny-giroux@uvm.edu

P16s. Small Towns, Big Challenges: Exploring Regional Collaboration (panel)

Dr. Dupigny-Giroux is a Professor of Climatology in the Department of Geography & Geosciences, the Vermont State Climatologist since 1997, and the President of the American Association of State Climatologists from 2020-2022. In 2020, she was appointed by the Vermont House of Representatives to the Vermont Climate Council as the member with expertise in climate change science. Dr. Dupigny-Giroux teaches introductory and intermediate-level courses in climatology, physical geography and remote sensing. Her advanced level capstone seminars delve into Climatology and Natural Hazards, as well as Satellite Climatology and Land-Surfaces Processes. Many of her courses are Service-Learning collaborations with municipalities across the state, State of Vermont Agencies Federal entities such as NOAA. She holds a B.Sc. in Physical Geography and Development Studies from the University of Toronto (1989), an M.Sc.(1992) in Climatology and Hydrology and a Ph.D. (1996) in Climatology and Geographic Information Systems from McGill University. An applied climatologist by training, Dr. Dupigny-Giroux's research interests intersect a number of interdisciplinary fields including hydroclimatic natural hazards and climate literacy, climate services, geospatial climate and land-surface processes, all within the context of our changing climate. She is an expert in floods, droughts and severe weather and the ways in which these affect the landscape and peoples of Vermont and the US Northeast. She has worked extensively with K-12 teachers and students, bringing the use of satellites, climatology and climate change to all levels of the pre-university curriculum. She is the lead editor of Historical climate variability and impacts in North America, the first monograph to deal with the use of documentary and other ancillary records for analyzing climate variability and change in the North American context.

Jared Duval *Member Vermont Climate Council* | jduval@eanvt.org

P2. Clean Heat Standard: What Is It Intended To Do, and What Does It Mean for Vermonters? (panel)

Jared Duval is a member of the Vermont Climate Council, appointed to provide expertise in energy and data analysis. Jared co-chairs the Climate Council's Science & Data subcommittee and also serves as a member of the Cross-Sector Mitigation subcommittee. He is a co-author of Vermont's Climate Action Plan, of which the Clean Heat Standard was the single largest pollution reduction recommendation. Jared is a 9th generation Vermonter who originally grew up in the Upper Connecticut River Valley (Fairlee). He now lives with his wife and son in Montpelier.

Michelle Eddleman McCormick *Worker Owner & General Manager Marshfield Cooperative, Inc.* | mvscooperative@gmail.com

P15c. Resilience Hubs for Rural Communities

Michelle Eddleman McCormick (she/her) is a mother of two and has been active in climate and liberation movements for the last twenty five years. She was active in long-term mutual aid work in the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, where she became committed to transformative change. She currently serves as the General Manager of the worker-owned Marshfield Village Store in rural Vermont, a member of the Board of Directors of Cooperation Vermont and the Cooperation Vermont Land Trust, a coordinator of Regeneration Corp, a Trustee of the Jaquith Library, and a member of the Planning Commission for Marshfield.

Peg Elmer Hough *Cabot Planning Commission and Cabot's Flood Resilience Task Force*
Town of Cabot | elmer.peg1@gmail.com

P15c. Resilience Hubs for Rural Communities (panel)

Peg Elmer Hough is a veteran environmental advocate and land use planner. Retired now, she worked decades, under four different governors, on statewide land use and environmental policy. Building community climate resilience became a devotion following Tropical Storm Irene. She's currently serving on Cabot's Flood Resiliency Task Force and as Vice-Chair of the Planning Commission.

Susan Evans McClure *Executive Director VT Arts Council* | sevansmclure@vermontartscouncil.org

P14. The Role of Arts in Community Resilience (panel)

Susan Evans McClure is the Executive Director of the Vermont Arts Council, where they work to build a more creative state. Prior to joining the Council, she was the executive director of Lake Champlain Maritime Museum and, before that, the director of programs and audience development at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. She brings her experience working in arts education and public history at theaters and museums, in small towns and big cities, to this role leading the state's arts council.

Daniel Franklin *Chief Operating Officer Jenna's promise* | daniel@jennaspromise.org

P5. Community Health and Wellbeing (panel)

Hailing from Guilford, Vermont and a current resident of Craftsbury, Daniel Franklin has worked on the front lines and in leadership positions in health and human services for nearly two decades including stints as the executive director of North Central Vermont Recovery Center and as VP for Advocacy and Community Relations at VAMHAR/Recovery Vermont. Daniel currently serves as the co-executive director of Jenna's Promise, where he has helped to design and build the holistic addiction and trauma recovery paradigm known as the Recovery Village Model in Johnson. He is a community and relationship builder who is especially dedicated to the cause of recovery from addictions and mental illness and their intersections with sexual and domestic violence, poverty, justice-involvement and other challenges our communities face.

Speakers

Rose Friedman *Executive Director Civic Standard* | thecivicstandard@gmail.com

P14. The Role of Arts in Community Resilience (panel)

Rose Friedman is a theater maker, director, community organizer, and performer. She founded and directs the Civic Standard, and tours original shows to unlikely rural regions as Modern Times Theater. Rose studied at the Moscow Art Theater and New School University, and toured with Bread and Puppet Theater for over a decade. She lives with her family in East Hardwick.

Ryon Frink *Odd Fellows Hall* | ryon.frink@gmail.com

P4y. Community Centers and Hubs (panel)

Ryon has spent the past two years working to revitalize the Odd Fellows in Vermont. Since 1845 Odd Fellows have provided Vermont communities with social spaces, mutual aid, and neighborly connection. While there are currently only 5 Odd Fellows Lodges in the state, in the first half of the 20th Century, there were 76. These institutions were once a cornerstone of community life, and they have the potential to serve that role again.

Kati Gallagher *Sustainable Communities Program Director VNRC* |

kgallagher@vnrc.org

P10s. Act 250 Modernization: Collaborating to Create Livable Communities (panel)

Kati Gallagher is the Sustainable Communities Program Director for the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC). She works throughout Vermont to encourage sustainable land use policies that build resilient, walkable, opportunity-rich communities and protect our most valuable farmlands, forests, and water resources. Kati collaborates with partners to advocate for sustainable and equitable development and well-planned communities, including as the coordinator for the Transportation for Vermonters Coalition. She also manages the Small Grants for Smart Growth program, which provides seed funding for catalyzing community-based initiatives related to smart growth.

Kheya Ganguly *Director of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development VT Agency of Human Services* | Kheya.Ganguly@vermont.gov

P5. Community Health and Wellbeing (panel)

Kheya Ganguly, is a trained school psychologist, qualitative researcher and leader in trauma responsive and healing centered care with over 20 years of experience. She is a passionate advocate for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Justice. She is currently the Director of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development for the State of Vermont. She is an experienced teacher and trainer and has worked with all age groups. Kheya lives in Rutland County with her partner.

Nicole Gratton *Field Services Representative Preservation Trust* | nicole@ptvermont.org

P8. Community Trusts for Locally Led Revitalization (panel)

Nicole Gratton is a Community Support Specialist at Preservation Trust of Vermont. She works with community groups throughout the state in their efforts to build community through the preservation of Vermont's historic buildings, villages, and downtowns. Nicole lives in the Northeast Kingdom with her family. When not thinking about how the built landscape can support community needs, she enjoys Nordic skiing, hiking in the White mountains, and learning historic handicraft methods with her kids at Old Stone House Museum.

Jay Greene *Racial Equity Policy and Research Analyst State of Vermont Office of Racial Equity* | Jay.Greene@vermont.gov

P12. Universal Accessibility in Your Community (panel)

Mx. Jay Greene serves as the State of Vermont's Racial Equity Policy & Research Analyst. In this role, they work with the three branches of state government and with external entities to

conduct policy and data analyses that inform equitable implementation of the state's laws and programs. They bring an equity lens to all aspects of research and policy analysis by applying equity principles to traditional research methods. Since joining the Office of Racial Equity, Jay has testified to the State Legislature about the importance of language access as a human right. They have provided technical assistance to state government agencies and Vermont municipalities to improve their language access services. They are the principal drafter of the 2023 Office of Racial Equity Language Access report.

Johannes Haensch *Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Manager* Agency of Education | Johannes.Haensch@vermont.gov

P13y. Panel Discussion: the Community Schools Model (panel discussion)

Johannes Haensch has spent his career in education and human services building connections between individuals and systems. In his current role at the Vermont Agency of Education he has the privilege of supporting the students, educators, and educational leaders of this state as they build more flexible and more sustainable approaches to meeting the intellectual goals of every young person. He is here today to speak on behalf of the Community Schools initiative, a framework for “doing school” that leverages partnerships to allow schools to serve as resource hubs for their community. The project and the associated grant program have been one of the most personally exciting and one of the most professionally promising of his career.

Lindsey Halman *Executive Director* UP for Learning | lindsey@upforlearning.org

W8y. What Can Youth Teach Us About Civic Engagement? (workshop)

Lindsey Halman is the Executive Director of the UP for Learning, a non-profit with the mission of empowering youth and adults to reimagine and transform education together. Prior to joining UP, she spent fifteen years as a middle level educator, leader and advocate, co-founding The Edge Academy in Essex, Vermont. Lindsey is passionate about building strong relationships with youth and adults, helping them feel empowered to make change, and creating a socially just climate and culture for all.

Charlie Hancock *Chair* Montgomery Selectboard | montgomeryselectboard.charlie@gmail.com

P6s. Community Water and Wastewater: Building Community Support, Decision Points, Innovative Solutions (panel)

Charlie currently serves as the Franklin and Grand Isle County Forester with the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. Prior to that, he worked as a consulting forester and conservationist at North Woods Forestry for close to two decades, working with private landowners and non-profits across northern Vermont. Charlie received undergraduate degrees in Forestry and Recreation Management from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Vermont. Prior to taking over North Woods Forestry in 2007, Charlie worked as an operations forester with Upland Forestry and the Lyme Timber Co. in the Adirondack region of New York. In addition to his work as a licensed Forester, Charlie is co-founder and President of Cold Hollow to Canada, a community-based regional conservation partnership located in the Northern Greens. Charlie has also served as chairman of the Montgomery Selectboard since 2016, is vice-chair of the Vermont Land Trust Board of Trustees, sits on the Vermont League of Cities and Towns Board of Directors, and serves as vice-chair of the State of Vermont's Working Lands Enterprise Board. While on the Selectboard in Montgomery, Charlie helped to lead the community through several critical community development initiatives including a major village street scape and wastewater initiative - a project prioritized in Montgomery's 2018 Community Visit process. Charlie also served as the chair of the Future of Vermont Action Team, a group convened by VCRD to advance the elements of the Vermont Proposition.

Speakers

Josh Hanford *Director, Intergovernmental Relations* VT League of Cities and Towns | jhanford@vlct.org

P3. Boosting Capacity in Small Towns: Vermont's Volunteer Reliance Challenge (panel) - AND - P16s. Small Towns, Big Challenges: Exploring Regional Collaboration (panel)

Josh has 25 years of experience working to support communities throughout Vermont. As Director of Intergovernmental Relations at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), he supports the advocacy and policy needs of all 247 Vermont Municipalities. Prior to joining VLCT, Josh was Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, overseeing the state Housing, Planning, Historic Preservation and Community Development divisions. He also served as Deputy Commissioner of the Department under two Governors and 10 years as the Director of the Vermont Community Development Program.

Paige Hartsell *Economic Equity Team* Northeast Kingdom Community Action | PHartsell@nekcavt.org

W5s. Addressing Digital Equity and Broadband Expansion: A case study from the Northeast Kingdom (workshop)

Paige Hartsell is on the Economic Equity Team at NEKCA (Northeast Kingdom Community Action) where she serves as the Digital Equity Coach. She joined NEKCA in last year as the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Outreach Coordinator for the for the Vermont Community Action Partnership. After the end of ACP, she developed the Northeast Kingdom Digital Equity Project (NEKDEP) in partnership with NEK Broadband. This program addresses digital equity through access to dependable devices, access to affordable, reliable internet, digital skills and online safety, and strengthening community relationships.

Kaziah Haviland *Village Trust Initiative Director* Vermont Council on Rural Development | kaziah@vtrural.org

P8. Community Trusts for Locally Led Revitalization (panel)

Kaziah joined VCRD in April 2024 as the Village Trust Initiative Director. She is a Vermont based designer whose work has explored community driven design processes, social wellbeing, and sustainability. She has worked in the Field of Architecture, Planning and Development for over 15 years.

Jake Hemmerick *Community Planning & Policy Manager* DHCD | Jacob.Hemmerick@vermont.gov

W6s. Workshop Discussion: Increasing Housing Options in your Community (workshop)

Jacob Hemmerick is a community planning & policy manager at the Vermont Department of Housing & Community Development in the Division of Community Planning + Revitalization – a team that uses a place-based approach to land-use planning and community development to empower state and local leaders to plan for and build vibrant, inclusive, and resilient downtowns, villages and neighborhoods. Jacob's work focuses on the Vermont Municipal and Regional Planning Act and the Downtown Development Act, administration of planning grants, state community investment program designations, and special projects. He is an American Planning Association Certified Planner, and his prior work includes service as a park ranger, ICMA management fellow, local planning and economic development director, development review planner/zoning administrator, planning commissioner, city councilor, and former mayor; he holds a BA and MPA from the University of Dayton; and lives in Barre City.

Cashel Higgins *Youth Program Specialist* UP for Learning |

W8y. What Can Youth Teach Us About Civic Engagement? (workshop)

Cashel joined UP in the winter of 2024. He is a junior at Harwood Union High school. Cashel is a school board representative, Harkness leader, and all around advocate for student voice and youth-adult partnership. He believes connection between people is the solution to almost all of our problems, and the best way to do that is fostering dialogue.

Gary Holloway *Downtown Program Coordinator* VT Department of Housing & Community Development | gary.holloway@vermont.gov

N3s. BYOI - Connecting with Resource Leaders to Discuss YOUR project (networking)

Gary Holloway is the Downtown Program Manager for the Vermont Downtown Program, a Main Street State Coordinating Program. Since 2014, Gary has worked in the field extensively, assisting Vermont Main Streets with community revitalization and preservation initiatives. Gary has worked in a variety of downtown community development capacities over 20 years from co-founding and managing the Bellingham Public Market in downtown Bellingham, WA to the startup and management of the Landis Marketplace in downtown Vineland, NJ. Gary resides with his wife and two teenage boys in Montpelier.

Adam Jacobs *Barre Volunteer Coordination Team* | adjacobs202@gmail.com

W8c. 'Barre'd Alive: Grassroots Volunteer Coordination and Creating Resilient Community in Time of Need (workshop)

Amanda Janoo *Economics & Policy Lead* WEAll | amanda@weall.org

P7. Vermont's Inclusive and Thriving Economy (panel)

Amanda is the Economics & Policy Lead at the Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) - the world's leading collaboration of organizations, governments and changemakers committed to transforming our economic system so that it works in service of people and the planet's wellbeing. Amanda is an economic policy expert with decades of experience building regenerative and equitable economies through participatory policy design processes. Prior to joining WEAll, Amanda worked for the United Nations as an industrial policy and structural transformation expert. She grew up in South Strafford VT and currently resides in Burlington.

Seth Jensen *Deputy Director* Lamoille RPC | seth@lcpcvt.org

P6s. Community Water and Wastewater: Building Community Support, Decision Points, Innovative Solutions (panel)

Seth Jensen is the Deputy Director of the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC). Seth joined LCPC in 2011 after working as a Town Planner and Zoning Administrator in several Vermont communities. Seth has assisted communities throughout the region with planning and community development, infrastructure development – including village scale water and wastewater management, and flood resiliency.

Peter Johnke *Deputy Director* VT Center for Independent Living | peter@vcil.org

P12. Universal Accessibility in Your Community (panel)

Peter Johnke (he/him) is Deputy Director of the Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL). He's been part of the Independent Living Movement for over 30 years, advocating for accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities. He is the leader for VCIL's Community Access Team that provides ADA technical assistance throughout Vermont. Peter lives in an off-grid geodesic dome, in East Calais, with his wife Helen and occasionally a cat.

Speakers

Alyssa Johnson *Community Visit Program Manager* VT Council on Rural Development

| alyssa@vtrural.org

P1c. Dusting Off the Plan: Local Disaster and Emergency Response (panel)

Alyssa Johnson is the Community Visit Program Manager at the Vermont Council on Rural Development. Prior to joining VCRD in 2021, she served as the Economic Development Director for Revitalizing Waterbury. Alyssa graduated from UVM and lives in Waterbury, where she serves as a member of the Select Board.

Jessica Kell *Interim Director, Children Youth & Family Services, Washington County*

Mental Health | jessica.kell@wcmhs.org

P5. Community Health and Wellbeing (panel)

Jessica has an MA in Clinical Psychology and an MBA in Healthcare Administration. She is a licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor in the State of Vermont and has worked in almost all Mental Health Care sectors the industry offers. Most recently, she worked in the Alaska Tribal Healthcare system (2010-2020), leading mental health program development and grant services implementations while providing direct client care. Since 2021, Jessica has worked at Washington County Mental Health Services first as Children's Services Director and now as Chief Operating Officer.

Beth Kennett *Owner* Liberty Hill Farm | beth@libertyhillfarm.com

P7. Vermont's Inclusive and Thriving Economy (panel)

Beth and her husband Bob purchased Liberty Hill Farm in 1979 to operate as a dairy farm. They milk 110 registered Holstein cows with the help of their son David, his wife, Asia, and their 4 children. Beth has operated a farm vacation business, providing lodging and meals for guests from around the world since 1984. Liberty Hill Farm has been featured nationally and internationally in various media through the years. Beth served as President of VT Farms! Association, the statewide agritourism association, and served on the Working Lands Enterprise Board. Beth currently represents the farm community on national, regional and statewide boards including the VT Farm Service Agency State Committee, VT Travel Information Council, Connecticut River Joint Commission, CT River Farmers Watershed Alliance, VT Trustee for Eastern States Exposition, VT Dairy Promotion Council, and Agrimark/Cabot Cooperative legislative education committee.

Abby Kiesa *Deputy Director* Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and

Engagement (CIRCLE), Tisch College, Tufts University | abby.kiesa@tufts.edu

W3y. Cultivating Wellbeing and Civic Participation for Rural Youth (workshop)

Abby Kiesa joined CIRCLE after working with students across the country on the topic of institutional support for civic engagement. As a result, Abby brings a changemaker's lens to her work at CIRCLE, a national applied research center focused on systemic support for broader and more diverse youth civic and political engagement. CIRCLE is a part of Tufts University's Tisch College of Civic Life. Now, as Deputy Director of CIRCLE, Abby has specialized in the processes through which research and data insights influence practice. Abby has been cited by news outlets such as The New York Times, CSPAN, NPR, and PolitiFact. She has an MA in American Studies from the University of Maryland.

Peter Knox *Research Assistant Professor* UVM | peter.knox@uvm.edu

P13y. Panel Discussion: the Community Schools Model (panel)

Peter N. Knox, PhD, is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Education at the University of Vermont. His areas of research include community schools, school climate and culture, family-school-community partnerships, and the role/impact of community-based

organization involvement in schools and education systems. Dr. Knox undertakes his scholarship through a lens of equity/social justice in educational settings and has a strong interest in and experience working in partnership with rural and under-resourced communities. He is passionate about community-based participatory research, inclusive of parents and caregivers, that centers on policy implementation and program evaluation using quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods data collection and analysis.

Jenna Koloski *Community and Policy Director* VT Council on Rural Development | jenna@vtrural.org

N2. Persistent Problem Networking Session - AND - W9. Effective Meetings and Facilitation/Facilitation 101 (workshop)

As the Director of Community Engagement and Policy, Jenna coordinates and facilitates the VCRD Community Visit program, the Vermont Community Leadership Network, and the Vermont Proposition Initiative. In this work, Jenna facilitates deep and inclusive community engagement processes with rural towns to identify key priorities for action, connects communities to resources, and provides support and technical assistance to community leaders across the State.

Pat Laclair *Program Director* UP for Learning | pat@upforlearning.org

W8y. What Can Youth Teach Us About Civic Engagement? (panel)

Pat is a program director working with youth-adult teams at UP for Learning, after ten years of teaching at Lamoille Union High School in northern Vermont. In his time at Lamoille Union, Pat partnered with students in the school's YATST team to shape practices around proficiency-based learning, the advisory program, and the school's capstone graduation requirement. Pat is currently continuing his own learning journey as a doctoral student in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies program at the University of Vermont.

Rebecca Lalanne *Director/Trainer* Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services (DVAS) | rebeccadvas@gmail.com, Rebecca.Lalanne@dvas.org

P12. Universal Accessibility in Your Community (panel)

A dedicated Deaf advocate, Rebecca serves as the Director of Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services (DVAS), working statewide with Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind individuals from youth to elders. She provides direct services and support to individuals and survivors, offers training to professionals, and educates both the Deaf and hearing communities. Her work also involves collaborating with local agencies to enhance advocacy and support services.

Kevin Lambert *Public Affairs* USDA Rural Development | kevin.lambert@usda.gov

N3s. BYOI - Connecting with Resource Leaders to Discuss YOUR project (networking)

Academic interest in zoology somehow evolved into a literary career for Vermont native Kevin Lambert, first as a writer and creative director for a small magazine, then as a product copywriter for corporations such as Nike, Jordan Brand and Vermont Teddy Bear Company. In May, 2020, he made the leap from private sector to public service as Public Affairs Specialist for USDA Rural Development (RD) in Vermont and New Hampshire, a role combining every element of his varied background: writing, design, communication, PR and event management. This last element is his favorite—regular field studies through which he can engage and enjoy all the fascinating and brilliant human creatures who call the Twin States home. Kevin is proud to serve the RD mission of helping rural residents live happier, healthier, more rewarding lives through safe, affordable housing, small business support and improved community facilities. He lives with his wife, two daughters and two dogs in Monkton and enjoys homesteading, hoops, exploring the woods and rivers near his home, and playing music with his family.

Speakers

Saudia Lamont *Initiative and Equity Director* Lamoille County WCC |

shyanneright@gmail.com

P5. Community Health and Wellbeing (panel)

Saudia LaMont is the Owner of 3 Op's Consulting (Optimism, Options, Opportunities), the Global Engagement & Equity Director at the United Way Lamoille County, and a VT State Representative. She is a decades-long advocate for health, recovery, prevention, education, housing, accessibility, community wellbeing and social justice in Lamoille County. Using her experience as a professional facilitator, she works to address the needs of communities and translate them into systems and policy change designed to improve access to services and create positive outcomes for everyone. Saudia's goal is to uplift all people and ensure we live in a safe and inclusive environment where peoples' needs are met, and all can thrive.

Barry Lampke *Project Manager - Working Communities Challenge* Northwest Regional Planning Commission | blampke@nrpcvt.com

W6s. Workshop Discussion: Increasing Housing Options in your Community (workshop)

Barry Lampke is Project Manager of Housing For All based at the Northwest Regional Planning Commission. He has worked for ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, the United Way of Northwest Vermont, Smart Growth Vermont, and Efficiency Vermont.

Jenna Lapachinski *Field Service Representative* Preservation Trust of Vermont |

jenna@ptvermont.org

W1. Project Management 101: From Vision to Planning to Implementation (workshop)

Jenna Lapachinski is a Field Service Representative for the Preservation Trust of Vermont. Before joining PTV's staff in 2017, she worked as the Historic Resource Specialist for the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) in New Hampshire and the Preservation & Education Coordinator for the Historic Macon Foundation in Macon, Georgia. Jenna is a graduate of the University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program and lives in the hills of Tunbridge with her family.

Sam Lash *Climate & Energy Planner* Central VT Regional Planning Commission |

Lash@cvregion.com

P3s. Boosting Capacity in Small Towns: Vermont's Volunteer Reliance Challenge (panel) - AND - P15c. Resilience Hubs for Rural Communities (panel)

Sarah Launderville *Executive Director* VT Center for Independent Living |

slaunderville@vcil.org

P12. Universal Accessibility in Your Community (panel)

Sarah Wendell Launderville is a psychiatric survivor and the mother of three teens. She is a disability justice activist and was introduced to the independent living movement when she was hired at the VT Center for Independent Living in 1997, and now is the executive director. She has a MS in Human Services, Organizational Management and Leadership and has been adjunct faculty teaching classes on the disability movement, politics, advocacy and economics. She serves on various boards and committees always highlighting through the lens of disability justice.

Ana Lindert-Boyes *Youth Program Specialist* UP for Learning | ana@upforlearning.org

W8y. What Can Youth Teach Us About Civic Engagement? (workshop)

Ana has worked with UP since 2018, first as a participant of Transforming School Culture through Restorative Practices, later as a co-facilitator, and now as a Youth Program Specialist. She is very

passionate about youth adult partnership, as well as transformative approaches towards education and creating personalized opportunities for learning and growth for all students. Ana has just completed her first year at Boston University's College of General Studies and lives in Plainfield VT with her family.

Trey Martin *Executive Director* Northwest Regional Planning Commission | tmartin@nrpcvt.com

P16s. Small Towns, Big Challenges: Exploring Regional Collaboration (panel)

Trey Martin is the Director of Conservation and Rural Community Development at the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. Since graduating from Vermont Law School in 2008, he has been a land use and environmental attorney, community development advocate and State official, leading coalitions to facilitate complex environmental, fiscal and system solutions throughout Vermont. Trey lives in Montpelier with his partner Roberta, their four children and dog Bree.

John McCormick *Director* Louise Diamond Committee to Protect Next Generations | jmccormick@imtd.org

P2. Clean Heat Standard: What Is It Intended To Do, and What Does It Mean for Vermonters? (panel)

John's environmental career began lobbying Congress on coal strip mining regulations, acid rain control, toxic waste and pesticide control for the Environmental Policy Center during the 70s and 80s. Using a German Marshall Fund grant, he organized a tour for 6 U.S. timber industry representatives to witness German forest dieback, from polluting Yugoslav coal-burning power plants. The companies agreed to strongly support acid rain control. Retired, he is actively following Vermont's efforts to decarbonize, and respond/adapt to earth's warming climate.

Edward McNamara *Chair* Vermont Public Utility Commission | ed.mcnamara@vermont.gov

P2. Clean Heat Standard: What Is It Intended To Do, and What Does It Mean for Vermonters? (panel)

Ed McNamara was appointed Chair of the Public Utility Commission (PUC) in January 2024. From 2022 to 2024, McNamara served as general counsel for the Agency of Natural Resources. Prior to his work at ANR, McNamara worked on energy issues for 20 years, including at the Public Service Department where he performed numerous roles, including as planning director, assisting with emergency response activities, and representing Vermont's interests before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. McNamara started his legal career as a hearing officer and staff attorney for the PUC.

Bill Moore *Deputy Town Manager* Town of Brandon | bmoore@townofbrandon.com
Plenary Fishbowl: Forge Forward, Thrive Together

Bill Moore works for the Town of Brandon as the Recreation Director/Economic Development Officer/Deputy Town Manager. His wife and two daughters begrudgingly forgive him for his choice of vocation and terrible dad jokes.

Holly Morehouse *Vice President for Grants and Community Impact* Vermont Community Foundation | hmorehouse@vermontcf.org

P8. Community Trusts for Locally Led Revitalization (panel)

Dr. Holly Morehouse, Vice President for Grants & Community Impact, joined the Vermont Community Foundation in 2022 with over 20 years of experience in project management, community-based decision making, and program leadership. Previously, Holly served as the founding Executive Director of Vermont Afterschool, where she grew the organization into a

Speakers

nationally recognized leader in youth development, out-of-school programming, and youth voice. Holly is the recipient of several state awards for her advocacy work, as well as the 2017 Con Hogan Award for community leadership.

Devon Neary *Executive Director* Rutland Regional Planning Commission |

devon@rutlandrpc.org

P11c. Planning, Adaptation, Action! Strategies for Community Implementing Resilience (panel)

Devon is the Executive Director of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC). Based in Rutland City, the RRPC is a high-value, low-cost resource for 27 Towns within Rutland County that promotes collaborative planning for strong local economies and vibrant communities. Devon previously led the transportation program at the RRPC where he developed several high-profile projects with a special interest in active transportation, public transit, and placemaking. Devon brings a unique local perspective having grown up in Rutland County, which motivates him to help towns realize and achieve their goals. Devon holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Castleton University, a master's degree in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School, and a certification in Livable Communities and Sustainable Transportation from University of Washington. Devon also serves as the Chair of the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VAPDA) and Marble Valley Regional Transit District (MVRTD).

Kate Neubauer *Program Officer for Community & Environment* Vermont Community Foundation | kneubauer@vermontcf.org

N3s. Networking: BYOI - Connecting with Resource Leaders to Discuss YOUR project (networking)

Kate Neubauer is a dynamic leader with two decades of experience in nonprofit management and philanthropy. Known for her impactful work across environmental and mission-driven initiatives, Kate now serves as a Program Officer at the Vermont Community Foundation, where she passionately champions transformative and meaningful causes.

Lindsay O'Steen *President* Hardwick Rescue Squad | osteenlins@gmail.com

P3s. Boosting Capacity in Small Towns: Vermont's Volunteer Reliance Challenge (panel)

Lindsay is a volunteer EMS Chief and president of Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad. Volunteering is a large part of Lindsay's life as an EMS provider and volunteer fire Lieutenant in the Town of Hardwick. When Lindsay is not volunteering she is a physical therapist and clinic manager of Northern Physical Therapy one of the NVRH private practices in Lyndonville. Lindsay is passionate about volunteering and as a non-native Vermonter found this to be one way to establish and maintain a deep connection to the place she now calls home.

Robyn Palmer *Education and Civic Engagement Coordinator* VT Secretary of State's Office | robyn.palmer@vermont.gov

W8y. What Can Youth Teach Us About Civic Engagement? (workshop)

Robyn Palmer is the Director of Civic and Voter Engagement in the Vermont Secretary of State's Office. Previously, she worked as Director of an AmeriCorps VISTA Program based at the Vermont Agency of Human Services for ten years. Robyn is also a board member for Common Ground Center in Starksboro. She has a BA in American Studies and Art History from Temple University in Philadelphia and earned her Master's in Higher Education from the University of Maryland. Robyn currently resides in South Burlington with her husband, their growing record collection, and two silly cats.

Caroline Paske *State Hazard Mitigation Planner* Vermont Emergency Management | Caroline.Paske@Vermont.gov

P15c. Resilience Hubs for Rural Communities (panel)

Caroline Paske is the State Hazard Mitigation Planner at Vermont Emergency Management responsible for providing technical assistance for, review, and approval of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans. She also manages updating and implementing the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Prior to working for the State of Vermont, Caroline worked for a Regional Planning Commission on climate change mitigation and adaptation and for FEMA in interagency coordination and environmental compliance. She received her B.S. in Environmental Studies from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and her M.S. in Urban Planning from Columbia University.

Haley Pero *Outreach Director* Senator Sander's Office |

Haley_Pero@sanders.senate.gov

N3s. Networking: BYOI - Connecting with Resource Leaders to Discuss YOUR project (networking)

Haley currently serves as Outreach Director for Senator Bernie Sanders, a role in which she leads engagement with constituents across Vermont. In keeping with the Senator's longtime belief in grassroots outreach, she and the outreach team travel around the state, both learning about what issues matter most to Vermonters, as well as connecting constituents with federal resources. Haley's outreach issue assignments include fire, police, and EMS; municipalities; telecom; and disaster recovery. Haley spent eight years as an outreach representative and previously worked in political research in DC.

Kim Phinney *Co-Founder* Rural Youth Catalyst | kphinney@ruralityouthcatalyst.org

W3y. Cultivating Wellbeing and Civic Participation for Rural Youth (workshop)

Kim (she/her) is the Co-Founder of Rural Youth Catalyst and a Senior Fellow with the Center for Rural Strategies. Previously, Kim served as the Vice President of Program Design for YouthBuild USA where she oversaw the organization's education, career pathways, and life skill components of the YouthBuild model. She helped craft the strategy for the organization's overall vision and mission for scale and sustainability, managed an annual portfolio of federal and private funders, built cross-sector national partnerships and policy initiatives, and designed a range of capacity building strategies across the field of 262 urban and rural programs. Kim established a national rural initiative to develop the YouthBuild model in rural communities and over the course of a decade, 12 rural programs scaled to 83 across the nation. During this time, she launched the Rural Youth Caucus in Washington D.C., the only national, leadership development gathering of rural Opportunity Youth in the country. Additionally, she's led numerous national policy initiatives, Hill Day campaigns, and served on a range of policy working groups.

Kasey Potter *Assistant Principal* Hazen Union High School | kpotter@ossu.org

P13y. Panel Discussion: the Community Schools Model (panel)

Kasey Potter has been the Assistant Principal @ Hazen Union School for 3 years and served as Director of Guidance before that. Prior to coming to Hazen she was the Director of Guidance at a private school for 5 years and did a stint as the Principal at Concord High School for the last two years it was open; which was unfortunately closed due to consolidation. She has also served as Director of Guidance at Blue Mountain High School and Middle School Counselor at Barre City Elementary & Middle School. Kasey grew up in a small mill town in northern New Hampshire. She attended Plymouth State University where she played basketball for 2 years. Kasey has three children and has been married to her husband, Mark, for 23 years. She also has 2 large chocolate labs and 2 French Bulldogs.

Speakers

Auishma Pradhan *Youth Program Specialist* UP for Learning |
W8y. What Can Youth Teach Us About Civic Engagement? (panel)

Auishma is a rising senior at South Burlington High School in Chittenden County. She will spend her senior year as an early college student at CCV. She started her facilitation with UP for Learning in 2021 through UP's collaboration with the Winooski School District's Antiracism Steering Committee (ARSC). Auishma has continued her work with UP by facilitating at various conferences and events. She serves as a board member for the UP Board of Directors, is a part of the Youth Advisory Council at UP, and also works closely with the Education Justice Coalition of Vermont.

Eric Pulver *Emergency Preparedness Specialist II* Vermont Department of Health |
Eric.pulver@vermont.gov

P1c. Dusting Off the Plan: Local Disaster and Emergency Response (panel)

Eric Pulver (He/Him) is the Emergency Preparedness Specialist in the Rutland District Office of the Department of Health. Additionally, he serves as the Executive Chair of the Rutland Regional Disaster Cooperative, a Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD). He earned his Master of Public Health in Emergency Preparedness from the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Curtiss Reed *Executive Director* Vermont Partnership for Fairness & Diversity |
creed@vtpfd.org

P2. Clean Heat Standard: What Is It Intended To Do, and What Does It Mean for Vermonters? (panel)

Curtiss Reed, Jr. is President and CEO of CRJ Consulting Group, L3C dba Vermont Partnership for Fairness & Diversity. The consulting group has considerable experience working with state agencies, municipalities, and complex organizations on operational challenges from synthesizing disparate points of view into coherent strategies to delivering high value content through professional development sessions and leadership coaching. Vermont Partnership serves as the Public Engagement Facilitator for the Public Utilities Commission Clean Heat Standard. Reed serves on the VCRD Board of Directors.

Jenny Ronis *Associate General Council* Vermont Natural Resources Board |
Jenny.Ronis@vermont.gov

P10s. Act 250 Modernization: Collaborating to Create Livable Communities (panel)

Jenny Ronis specializes in administrative law and environmental law and land use. She serves as Associate General Counsel for the Natural Resources Board after working an Assistant Attorney General representing the Vermont Agency of Transportation in a variety of condemnation and land use matters before every level of Vermont state courts, the Second Circuit and the Surface Transportation Board. Before coming to Vermont, she was a midlevel associate in Reed Smith, LLP's corporate transactional advisory group, and has clerked in the Pennsylvania Superior Court and the Third Circuit.

Beth Rusnock *Corporate Marketing and Community Relations* National Life Foundation | BRusnock@nationallife.com

N3s. Networking: BYOI - Connecting with Resource Leaders to Discuss YOUR project (networking)

Beth Rusnock is the Head of Corporate Communications and Community Relations for National Life Group. In this role, she leads internal and external communications, corporate sponsorships, employee and community engagement and is President of the National Life Group Foundation.

In addition to her day job, Beth serves on the Board for Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility and on the Working Communities Challenge Steering Committee led by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

Alyssa Sabetto *Senior Planner* Windham Regional Commission |

asabetto@windhamregional.org

P1c. Dusting Off the Plan: Local Disaster and Emergency Response (panel)

Alyssa is a Senior Planner and Certified Floodplain Manager with the Windham Regional Commission (WRC). She joined WRC in 2014 and during her tenure has supported towns in each phase of emergency management: preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. Her work most frequently involves her favorite phase – mitigation, where she works on everything from plan development to project implementation. In her time away from work, she enjoys relaxing adventures with her family.

Travis Samuels *Chief Operating Officer* ZION Growers | ziongrowers@gmail.com

P11c. Planning, Adaptation, Action! Strategies for Community Implementing Resilience (panel)

Travis Samuels is the Co-owner and COO of ZION Corporation DBA Zion Growers, an industrial hemp processing company. Travis grew up in Vermont and after earning his Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality Business Management from Johnson & Wales University in Providence Rhode Island, he moved to the Western US to grow cannabis and study its cultivation. Upon returning to the Eastern US he worked at landmark hotels in Florida and Boston before returning to live in Vermont full time in 2019 where he now operates a successful real estate management entity and runs day to day operations for ZION.

Krystal Sanchez *Project & Events Manager* Vermont Professionals of Color Network |

krystal@vtpoc.net

Affinity Space

Krystal is the Projects and Events Manager at the Vermont Professionals of Color Network (VT PoC), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the social and economic prosperity of all Black, Indigenous and People of Color in Vermont. VT PoC supports this mission through many different avenues such as: Research & Advocacy, Personal & Professional Development, and Community Building. Visit vtpoc.net to learn more about VT PoC and its services. Krystal and other VTPoC members can be found today in the Affinity Space in Conant 103.

Jessica Savage *Director of Community Collaboration* VT Council on Rural

Development | jessica@vtrural.org

N1. Community Project Networking - AND - W9. Effective Meetings and Facilitation / Facilitation 101 (workshop)

Jessica joined VCRD in 2021 as Director of Community Collaboration after 15 years in the public sector mainly in the natural resources and recreation management fields. She has an MPA from UVM, is an avid outdoorsperson and a mom to two young children.

Chip Sawyer *Director of Planning & Development* St. Albans |

c.sawyer@stalbansvt.com

W6s. Workshop Discussion: Increasing Housing Options in your Community (workshop)

Chip Sawyer is the Director of Planning & Development for the City of St. Albans where he oversees the City's land use planning and permitting, community development, downtown program, stormwater planning, property valuation, and special projects. Chip is a member of the team that has brought unprecedented redevelopment to the City through infrastructure

Speakers

investment, public-private partnerships and numerous funding methods. He holds Master's degrees in Public Administration and Natural Resource Planning from the University of Vermont.

Ethan Schmitt *Outreach Intern VT Secretary of State's Office* |

W8y. What Can Youth Teach Us About Civic Engagement? (workshop)

Ethan Schmitt is an Outreach Intern in the Vermont Secretary of State's Office. He is from Rutland Town and is a senior political science major at Middlebury College. At Middlebury, he works as a Democracy Initiatives Intern at the Center for Community Engagement, is the co-founder of Civics in Action and the Vice President-elect of MiddVotes.

Susan Sgorbati *Director of the Center for the Advancement of Public Action and Interim Director of the MFA in Public Action Bennington College* |

sgorbati@bennington.edu

W7. Moving Through Conflict: Difficult Conversations in Complex Situations (workshop)

Susan Sgorbati is the Director of the Center for the Advancement of Public Action at Bennington College where she holds the Barbara and Lewis Jones Chair for Social Activism. She has been a professional mediator for thirty years and created the Conflict Resolution program at Bennington College. She co-founded a program called Quantum Leap that helped prevent over two thousand adolescents from dropping out of high school in the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union. She also created a form of movement improvisation in collaboration with scientists that involved an understanding of complex systems across disciplines. Her latest work is co-founding the Transboundary Water In-Cooperation Network, www.transboundarywater.org with Dr. Asim Zia at the University of Vermont. They are involved in creating a new Convention for the United Nations on Saving the River Deltas UNCCRD.

Chris Sheehan *Rowland Fellow Twinfield Union School* | chris.sheehan@ccsuvt.net

W8y. What Can Youth Teach Us About Civic Engagement? (workshop)

Christopher Sheehan is a high school social studies teacher at Twinfield Union School in Plainfield. He is a 2023-2025 Rowland Fellow through which he helped establish the Twinfield Democracy Project, a program designed to increase student civic engagement. Chris is committed to helping the next generation of Vermonters be active participants in their local, state and national community.

Laura Sibilia *Director of Regional Economic Development Strategies and Programs Brattleboro Development Credit Corp* | lsibilia@brattleborodevelopment.com

P3s. Boosting Capacity in Small Towns: Vermont's Volunteer Reliance Challenge (panel)

Laura Sibilia has served as a State Representative in Vermont since 2014, focusing on telecom, energy, climate change, rural economic development, and education finance. She is the Vice Chair of the House Environment and Energy Committee and Co-Chair of the House Rural Economic Development Working Group. Professionally, Laura is the Director of Regional Economic Development Strategies at the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC), where she leads regional economic development efforts. Her commitment to community service includes founding the Deerfield Valley Troop Support Group and long-standing service on the Dover and River Valleys Joint School Boards.

Meg Staloff *Program Manager, Southern Vermont Economy Project* Brattleboro

Development Credit Corp | mstaloff@brattleborodevelopment.com

P11c. Planning, Adaptation, Action! Strategies for Community Implementing Resilience (panel)

Meg Staloff is the program manager for the Southern Vermont Economy Project (SVEP), housed at Brattleboro Development Credit Corp. (BDCC) that serves all of Southern Vermont (Bennington and Windham Counties). SVEP is dedicated to building capacity through developing networks and skills that help volunteers and elected officials complete the essential community projects that are at the heart of rural economic development. She came to BDCC from a 5 year stint running Wilmington's Downtown organization (Wilmington Works), where she worked with volunteers and the town to accomplish major streetscape improvements, steer a large public art project to completion, and also manage a yearly schedule of local events and fundraising campaigns.

Megan Sullivan *Vice President of Government Affairs* VT Chamber of Commerce |

msullivan@vtchamber.com

P10s. Act 250 Modernization: Collaborating to Create Livable Communities (panel)

Megan Sullivan is the Vice President of Government Affairs at the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the largest statewide business organization in Vermont. In this role Megan leads the organization's advocacy team in a dedicated mission of advancing the Vermont economy. Last summer, Megan served on the Steering Committee of the Necessary Updates to Act 250 report that provided the basis of the Act250 modernization legislation that passed this year. Megan came to the Vermont Chamber from her position as Executive Director of the Vermont Economic Progress Council, overseeing the State's business incentives and statewide tax increment financing program. Prior to that, she worked as the business liaison for U.S. Senator (then Congressman) Peter Welch.

Paul Toth *Chief Culture Strategist* Vital Leadership Coaching |

paul@vitalleadershipcoaching.com

W2. Inspiring Meaningful Action: Building Resilient Teams (workshop)

Paul Toth is driven to unlock the exceptional in every organization and individual he works with while transforming how we lead in the twenty-first century. As a skilled coach and facilitator, Paul can help you effectively engage in the meaningful conversations you need, but rarely have.

Shawna Trader *Executive Director* The Rainbow Bridge Community Center |

s.trader@rainbowbridgev.org

Plenary Fishbowl: Forge Forward, Thrive Together - AND - W8. 'Barre'd Alive: Grassroots Volunteer Coordination and Creating Resilient Community in Time of Need (workshop)

Parent, partner, caregiver, server, out and proud nonbinary trans woman, Shawna's mission is to create meaningful relationships that bring the community together. She has a bachelor's degree in anthropology and religion, and a master's in Healthcare Administration. She worked in healthcare for 20 years, creating compassionate care for those in need. She loves musing over a cup of black coffee with a cat in her lap, singing, dancing, and hanging out with her two kids. Music, love, connection, and the beauty of Earth inspire her to fight for a future where all can live with freedom and joy.

Speakers

Hazel Turrone Barre Volunteer Coordination Team | hazelturrone@gmail.com
W8c. 'Barre'd Alive: Grassroots Volunteer Coordination and Creating Resilient Community in Time of Need (workshop)

Hazel Turrone is a holistic health practitioner, facilitator, homesteader and community organizer. Their work at earth*spirit confluence is rooted in the body - unwinding physical postural and pain patterns and related emotional trauma patterns while supporting a deep reset of the nervous system. She facilitates workshops and experiences in embodied liberation work - dismantling systemic oppression from the inside out. Harnessing skills from event organizing and a deep passion for community mutual aid, Hazel steps in as a community organizer when needs arise.

Roxanne Vought Executive Director VBSR | Roxannev@vbsr.org
P7. Vermont's Inclusive and Thriving Economy (panel)

Roxanne brings over 20 years of experience in Vermont's private, public, and non-profit sectors, including business and workforce development, education, human resources, and non-profit management. Formerly the Deputy Director of Advance Vermont, a statewide initiative to increase the civic and economic vitality of Vermont through educational attainment, Roxanne has also led education and workforce development initiatives for VBSR, managed human resources and public-private partnerships for a Vermont-based startup, and developed non-degree programming for University of Vermont Continuing and Distance Education.

Becka Warren Food Security Roadmap Project Manager Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund | becka@vsjf.org

P11c. Planning, Adaptation, Action! Strategies for Community Implementing Resilience (panel)

Becka Warren is the Vermont Farm to Plate Network Food Security Coalition Manager. The Network's new Vermont Food Security Coalition is dedicated to implementing the Vermont Food Security Roadmap to 2035, which shows us how to ensure everyone in Vermont has the food they need. Becka also managed the development of the Food Security Roadmap, working with hundreds of organizations and people around Vermont to determine the action steps that will ensure food security for everyone who lives here.

Mia Watson Special Programs Manager Vermont Housing Finance Agency | mwatson@vhfa.org

P2. Clean Heat Standard: What Is It Intended To Do, and What Does It Mean for Vermonters? (panel)

Mia Watson (she/her) oversees VHFA's pilot on-bill Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP) and other energy finance initiatives, as well as supports new capital formation for the Agency's Vermont Housing Investment Fund. She is the Chair of the Equity Advisory Group advising the Vermont Public Utility Commission on the design of the Clean Heat Standard. Watson was previously a researcher at VHFA and has been an author on many agency publications, including the 2020 Vermont Housing Needs Assessment. She has a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Vermont.

Taylor Welch-Plante Director Bristol Hub | hubdirector@bristolvt.org

P4y. Community Centers and Hubs (panel)

Taylor Welch-Plante is the Director of the Bristol Hub, a municipality funded, drop-in teen center. As the Director for the past 5 years Taylor has built on the 20+ year history of the Hub to make it an even more welcome and inclusive space for all teens. Her focus is on ensuring the Hub is a "third-space" for teens where they feel seen, valued, and safe. In addition to working at the Hub she is on the board of Bristol Downtown group, Bristol CORE. Her focus is on supporting

the Executive Director and leveraging community events to continue to share the importance of connection, community resilience, and the implicit value of all community members. When she is not working she spends time with her husband and toddler, cooks a lot, and spends time with friends.

Mitch Wertlieb *Morning Edition Host* Vermont Public | mwertlieb@vermontpublic.org

Plenary Fishbowl: Forge Forward, Thrive Together

A graduate of NYU with a Master's Degree in journalism, Mitch has more than 20 years experience in radio news. He got his start as news director at NYU's college station, and moved on to a news director (and part-time DJ position) for commercial radio station WMVY on Martha's Vineyard. But public radio was where Mitch wanted to be and he eventually moved on to Boston where he worked for six years in a number of different capacities at member station WBUR...as a Senior Producer, Editor, and fill-in co-host of the nationally distributed Here and Now. Mitch has been a guest host of the national NPR sports program "Only A Game." He's also worked as an editor and producer for international news coverage with Monitor Radio in Boston. Mitch lives in South Burlington with his wife Erin, daughter Gretchen, and their dog Fezzik. He (Mitch, not Fezzik) was host of Morning Edition on Vermont Public from 2003 until 2023. He now serves as the Senior Host and Correspondent and hosts "Vermont This Week."

Pam Wilson *Project Leader* Arts and Mental Health Project, Barre |

pamelawilsoncounseling@gmail.com

P5. Community Health and Wellbeing (panel) - AND - P14. The Role of Arts in Community Resilience (panel)

Pamela Wilson is a craft-based artist working out of Studio Place Arts in Barre City's historic downtown. She is trained in multiple fine-craft mediums and works primarily in ceramics, fiber and natural dye/pigment processes. She exhibits throughout New England and is on the Vermont Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster. In addition to her studio practice, Pamela has a masters in clinical mental health counseling, is one of the founding members of Barre City's long-term recovery group 'Barre Up' and developed the Imagine Barre Expressive Arts initiative at the Aldrich Public Library, which brings teaching artists to Barre City's public spaces and offers no-cost place-based art gatherings for residents of flood-impacted towns.

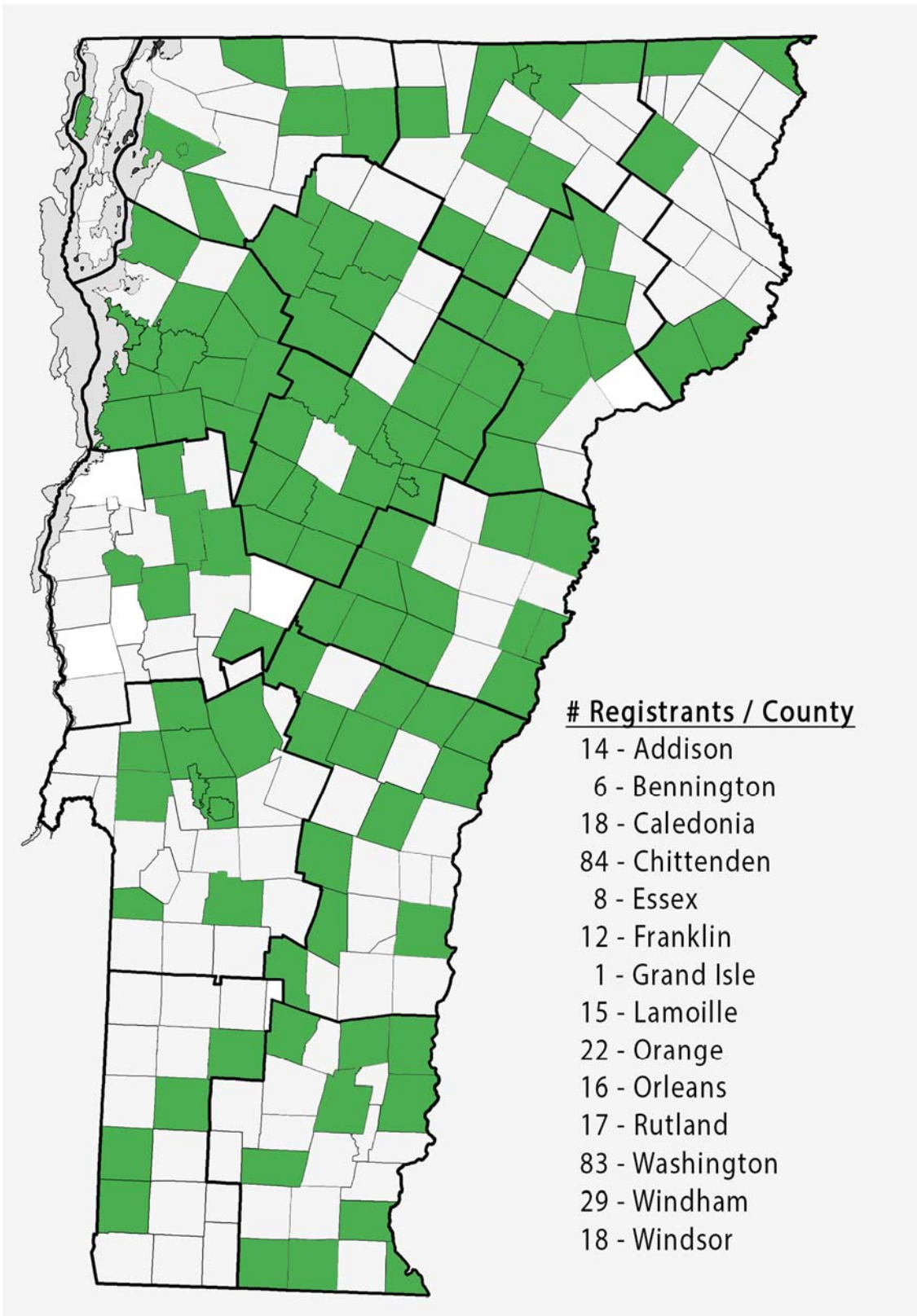
Marian Wolz *Resilience & Adaptation Coordinator* Climate Action Office, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources | Marian.Wolz@vermont.gov

P11c. Planning, Adaptation, Action! Strategies for Community Implementing Resilience (panel)

Marian is the Resilience and Adaptation Coordinator at the Agency of Natural Resources' Climate Action Office. At the Climate Action Office she works with state and local partners to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. Marian's work focuses on supporting and building capacity in communities to implement adaptation actions and coordinating with other state agencies on resilience and adaptation policy. Marian joined the Climate Action Office in 2022, after serving as the Global Warming Solutions Act Coordinator working with the Vermont Climate Council to write Vermont's Initial Climate Action Plan. Marian previously worked at Vermont Emergency Management on statewide emergency response and recovery planning, and has a background in urban and community planning.

Who Is Here Today?

As of 7/25/24, over 375 participants from 125 Vermont cities and towns have registered with another hundred expected.



Notes

Acknowledgements

Outreach Partners

- AALV
- AARP
- Addison County Economic Development Corporation
- Bennington County Regional Commission
- Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation
- Burlington City & Lake Semester, Burlington High School
- Burlington Community Justice Center
- Burlington Young Professionals
- Capstone Community Action
- Center for an Agricultural Economy
- Center for Women in Enterprise
- Central VT Chamber of Commerce
- Central VT Economic Development Corporation
- Central VT Regional Planning Commission
- Central VT Young Professionals
- Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region
- Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
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- Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce / Leadership Champlain
- Lake Champlain Islands Economic Development Corporation
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- Local Motion
- Main Street Landing
- Mentor VT
- Milton Artists Guild
- Mount Ascutney Regional Commission
- NEK Collaborative
- NOFA-VT
- North Country Hospital Community Health Team
- Northeastern VT Development Association
- Northern Forest Center
- Northwest Regional Planning Commission
- Out in the Open
- Preservation Trust of VT
- ReLeaf Collective
- Rutland Area NAACP
- Small Business Administration
- Southern VT Young Professionals
- Springfield Regional Development Corporation
- The Root Social Justice Center
- Two Rivers - Ottauquechee Regional Commission
- United Ways of VT

- Up For Learning
- Urban and Community Forestry Program
- UVM Center for Rural Studies
- UVM Community Development and Applied Economics
- UVM Extension
- UVM Extension 4-H Program
- UVM Office of Engagement
- VT 211
- VT Agency of Education
- VT Arts Council
- VT Chamber of Commerce
- VT Commission on Women
- VT Community Development Association
- VT Community Foundation
- VT Community Justice Network
- VT Community Loan Fund
- VT Creative Network
- VT Department of Housing and Community Development
- VT Digger
- VT Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN)
- VT Energy Education Program - Leadership Program
- VT Futures Project
- VT Green Building Network
- VT Housing and Conservation Board
- VT Land Trust
- VT Law & Graduate School
- VT Leadership Institute at the Snelling Center for Government
- VT League of Cities and Towns
- VT Natural Resources Council
- VT Office of Racial Equity
- VT Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC)
- VT Partnership for Fairness and Diversity
- VT Professionals of Color
- VT Racial Justice Alliance
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- VT Sustainable Jobs Fund/VT Farm to Plate Network
- VT Trails and Greenways Council
- VT Works for Women
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- Winooski Working Communities Challenge

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The 5th Vermont Community Leadership Summit is produced by the Vermont Council on Rural Development. From local, citizen-led efforts to policy councils that build collaboration between state, federal, nonprofit, and private sector leaders, VCRD brings Vermonters together across political lines and organizational boundaries to create a better future.



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From Pre-Summit Poll of Registrants

What does it take for a community to thrive?



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