

“Advancing Creativity and Innovation in Rural America” ~ a national conference hosted by VCRD

In September 2008, VCRD hosted the annual conference of the National Rural Development Partnership / Partners in Rural America (PRA). Participants from 13 states joined Vermont rural leaders in Montpelier for 4 days of dynamic sessions around “Advancing Creativity and Innovation in Rural America” which kicked-off at the State House and included a bus tour of innovative businesses and practices in Vermont. Throughout the conference, panels of professionals led discussions pertinent to rural America on:

- Innovative Agricultural Development;
- The Expansion of Renewable Energy and Efficiency;
- Advancing the Creative Economy;
- The Generational Transfer of Rural Wealth; and
- Telecommunications.

At the conference conclusion VCRD Executive Director and President of the PRA, **Paul Costello**, was honored with the **2008 Ron Shaffer Award** which is given annually by the PRA to an individual who embodies the values necessary to build a national and state rural development partnership that meets the diverse needs of rural America.

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