

2022

VERMONT COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

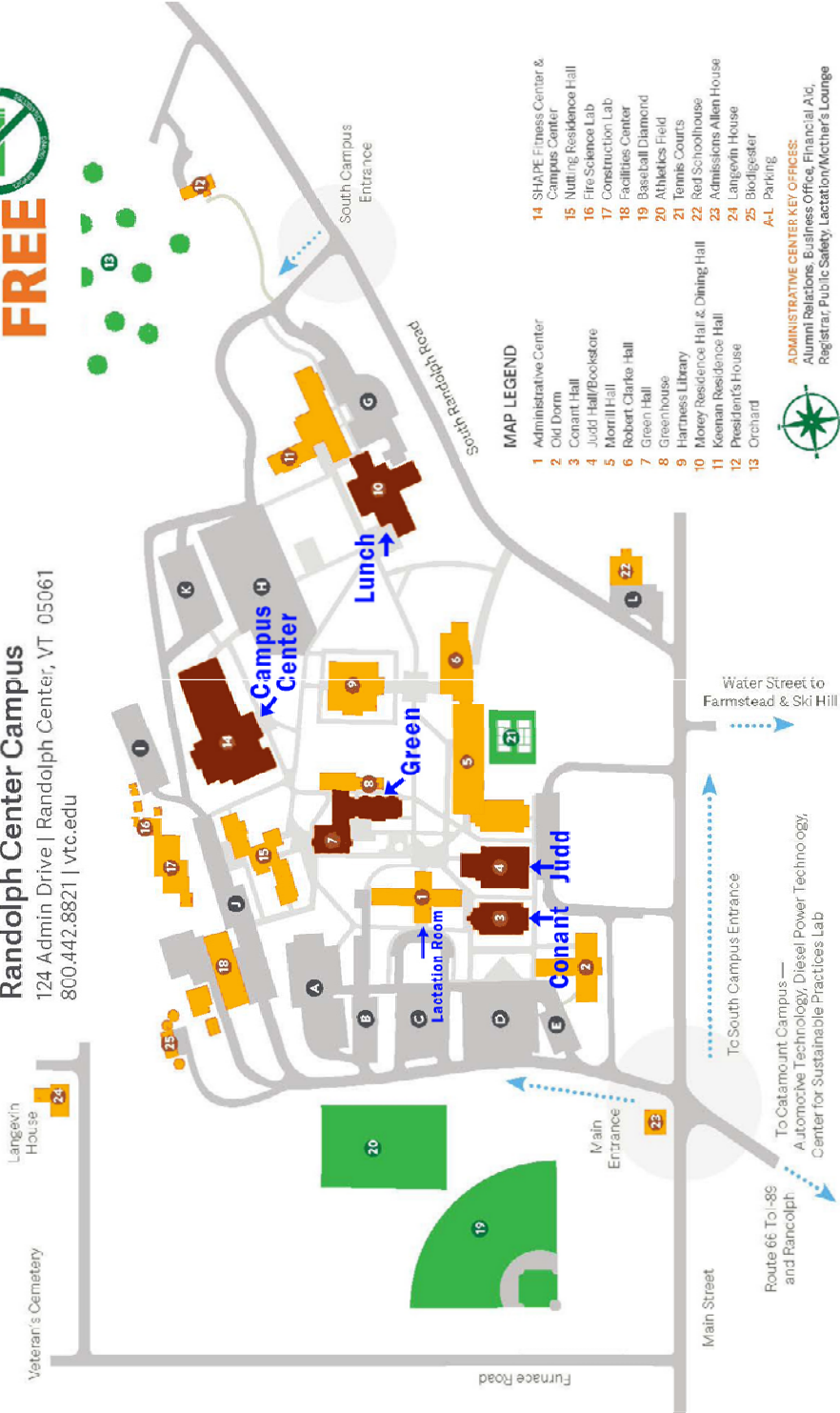
AUGUST 10, 2022
VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE
RANDOLPH, VERMONT



VERMONT TECH

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 Merrill Hall
- 6 Robert Clark Hall
- 7 Green Hall
- 8 Greenhouse
- 9 Harness Library
- 10 Money Residence Hall & Dining Hall
- 11 Keenan Residence Hall
- 12 President's 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 Langlevin House
- 25 Bodigester
- A-L Parking



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

Agenda-At-A-Glance

#VTCommunityLeaders

9:00 Opening
Parwinder Grewal, President, Vermont State University
Julie Moore, VCRD Board Chair
Brian Lowe, VCRD Executive Director,
Overview of the Day

Plenary Performance
Rajni Eddins, Poet, Emcee & Teaching Artist

9:30 Community Spark Stories

10:00 Presentation of VCRD Leadership Awards

10:30 BREAK

10:45 Breakouts: Skills Workshops, Action Forums, Project Panels, and Networking Sessions

Noon **LUNCH**

1:00 Breakouts: Skills Workshops, Action Forums, Project Panels, and Networking Sessions

2:15 BREAK

2:30 Breakouts: Skills Workshops, Action Forums, Project Panels, and Networking Sessions

4:00 Conclusions and Action

4:15 Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream!!

Breakout Room Locations:

10:45am

S1 - Conant, Rm 101

S2 - Judd Hall

S3 - Green, Rm 128

F1 - Conant, Rm 102

P1 - Green, Rm 216

P2 - Green, Rm 224

P3 - Green, Rm 228

N1 - Campus Center

1:00pm

S5 - Campus Center

S6 - Green, Rm 128

F2 - Judd Hall

F3 - Green, Rm 228

P4 - Green, Rm 216

P5 - Conant, Rm 101

P6 - Conant, Rm 102

N2 - Green, Rm 224

2:30pm

S7 - Judd Hall

S8 - Green, Rm 128

F4 - Conant, Rm 101

F5 - Green, Rm 216

P7 - Conant, Rm 102

P8 - Green, Rm 224

P9 - Green, Rm 228

N3 - Campus Center

Affinity Space - Conant 103

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.



Wi-Fi: Choose "VTCGuest" in Wi-Fi settings. Scroll to the bottom of the screen that pops up (skip past the section that asks for personal info), click "sign in" then:
username: VTCWIFI
Password: go2vtc

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

#VTCommunityLeaders



Welcome!

3rd Vermont Community Leadership Summit **Skills, Opportunities, and Action for the Future**

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 and 2019, 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 an opportunity to come back together for renewal and rejuvenation as we re-engage with fellow Vermonters, make new connections, celebrate community successes, talk through shared challenges, and think proactively about the future.

Today's Summit agenda is based in part on feedback over the past two years from thousands of Vermonters about the future of our state and the need to strengthen civic engagement and tackle shared challenges together. It will offer opportunities to build leadership skills, share success stories, and connect to and learn from community leaders of all backgrounds working to advance projects in towns across Vermont. There will be a presentation of the Vermont Council on Rural Development's 2022 Community Leadership and Lifetime Achievement Awards and the day will close with 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!



Brian Lowe, *Executive Director*
Vermont Council on Rural Development

Agenda

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

9:00 **Summit Opening**

Parwinder Grewal, *President*, Vermont State University

Julie Moore, *VCRD Board Chair*

Brian Lowe, *VCRD Executive Director*

- **Introduction: The Importance of Local Leadership**
- **Agenda for the Day**

Plenary Performance

Rajni Eddins, *Poet, Emcee, & Teaching Artist*

9:30 **Community Spark Stories**

HOST: Aly Richards, *VCRD Board Vice Chair; Executive Director, Let's Grow Kids*

PRESENTERS: Rich Holschuh, *Atowi Project* | Thato Ratsebe, *African Americans Living in Vermont* | Nic Stark, *Poultney Rebranding Effort* | Kate Whitehead, *Danville Train Station Committee*

10:00 **Presentation of VCRD Leadership Awards**

Vermont Lifetime Leadership Award: **Sarah Carpenter; Brenda Torpy**

Vermont Community Leadership Award: **Pam Parsons**

10:30 *Break* **Judd Hall**

10:45 Breakout Sessions

Leadership Skills Workshops: *Providing leadership training and community engagement techniques and best practices.*

Action Forums: *Discussing what we should accomplish for the future of Vermont communities and leadership and how we work together to realize our vision.*

Community Project Panels: *Describing how projects were identified and advanced, and sharing tips and techniques from community leaders in towns across Vermont.*

Networking Sessions: *Connecting with community leaders from around the state to generate new ideas and create new partnerships.*

S1 VUCA Leadership: Leading through Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity **Conant, Rm 101**

PRESENTER: Liz Dallas & Paul Toth, *Vital Leadership Coaching*

S2 Implementing Strategies for Equitable Community Engagement **Judd Hall**

PRESENTER: Rebecca Sanborn Stone, *Community Workshop LLC*

Agenda

S3 **Raising Money: Fundraising for Community Projects**..... **Green**, Rm 128

PRESENTER: Maeve McBride, *CPG Enterprises*

F1 **Demographic Change in Vermont: Creating Dialogue, Engagement, and Support**..... **Conant**, Rm 102

PRESENTER: Xusana Davis, *Vermont Office of Racial Equity*

P1 **Leading Systems Change at the Regional Scale: The Vermont Working Communities Challenge (WCC)**..... **Green**, Rm 216

MODERATOR: Jessica Savage, *Vermont Council on Rural Development*

PANELISTS: Alex Beck, *Southern Vermont WCC* | Sarah Danly, *White River Valley Consortium* | Eli Toohey, *Greater Barre WCC* | Stephen Michon, *Federal Reserve Bank of Boston*

P2 **Developing and Implementing Community-Based Climate Solutions**..... **Green**, Rm 224

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

PANELISTS: Megan Durling, *East Burke School* | Jeff Gephart, *Town of Rochester* | Jeannie Jenkins, *Bennington County* | Geoff Martin, *Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission* | Marshall Webb, *Shelburne Farms*

P3 **The Creative Economy in Your Community: Integrating Arts, Humanities, and Economy**..... **Green**, Rm 228

MODERATOR: Johanna de Graffenreid, *Vermont Creative Network*

PANELISTS: Carrie Caouette-DeLallo, *Chelsea Arts Collaborative* | Meg Hammond, *Generator* | Keith Marks, *Next State Arts*

N1 **Community Leadership & Engagement Speed Networking**..... **Campus Center**

SESSION LEADER: Kim Rupe, *Vermont Council on Rural Development*

12:00 LUNCH..... **Morey Dining Hall**

1:00pm Breakout Sessions

S5 **Freedom & Unity, Continuity & Change: An Introduction to Navigating Vermont's Polarities**..... **Campus Center**

PRESENTERS: John Castle, *Vermont Rural Education Collaborative* | Susan Clark, *Slow Democracy*

S6 **Effective Community Communications & Story-Telling**..... **Green**, Rm 128

PRESENTER: Becky Holt, *Vermont Story Lab*

F2 **Building Bridges: Boosting Civic Engagement & Building Community Connection and Unity**..... **Judd Hall**

FACILITATOR: Paul Costello, *Independent Consultant & Facilitator*

- F3 Inviting and Engagement New LeadershipGreen, Rm 228**
FACILITATOR: Jenna Koloski, *VT Council on Rural Development*
- P4 Creative Community Place-Making: Events, Green, Rm 216**
Pop-ups, Design, and Access
MODERATOR: Devon Neary, *Rutland Regional Planning Commission*
PANELISTS: Cindy Delano, *Barton Giving Garden* | Jordyn Fitch, *CATV* | King
 McMillen, *Fight For Kids Foundation Inc.* | Nicol Whalen, *Arlington Common
 Ground*
- P5 Implementing Local & Regional Housing Solutions..... Conant, Rm 101**
MODERATOR: Maura Collins, *Vermont Housing Finance Agency*
PANELISTS: Michelle Caver, *VFW Post 782* | Emily Rosenbaum, *Lamoille County WCC*
 | Katherine Sims, *Vermont State Legislature* | Don Turner, *Town of Milton*
- P6 Watershed Moment: Accessing Unprecedented Conant, Rm 102**
Funding Opportunities in Your Community
MODERATOR: Katie Buckley, *Vermont League of Cities & Towns*
PANELISTS: Tayt Brooks, *Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development* |
 Charlie Hancock, *Town of Montgomery* | Laura Sibilia, *Vermont State Legislature* |
 Jeannine Valcour, *University of Vermont Gund Institute* | Weiwei Wang, *Vermont
 Professionals of Color Network*
- N2 World Café: Challenges & Opportunities for VermontGreen, Rm 224**
Community Leaders
SESSION LEADER: Alyssa Johnson, *Vermont Council on Rural Development*

2:15 Break

2:30pm Breakout Sessions

- S7 Having Necessary Community Conversations: RacismJudd Hall**
in Vermont
PRESENTER: Rae Carter and Saudia Lamont, *EmpowR*
- S8 Sustainable Leadership for the Long Term: Avoiding Green, Rm 128**
Burnout & Fostering Delegation and New Leadership
PRESENTERS: Liz Dallas and Paul Toth, *Vital Leadership Coaching*
- F4 Encouraging Community Cooperation: Connecting Conant, Rm 101**
Municipal & Community Volunteers for Local Success
FACILITATOR: Ted Brady, *Vermont League of Cities & Towns*
- F5 Lessons Learned in Covid Response and Recovery: Green, Rm 216**
Where do we go from here:
FACILITATOR: Sarah Waring, *USDA Rural Development*

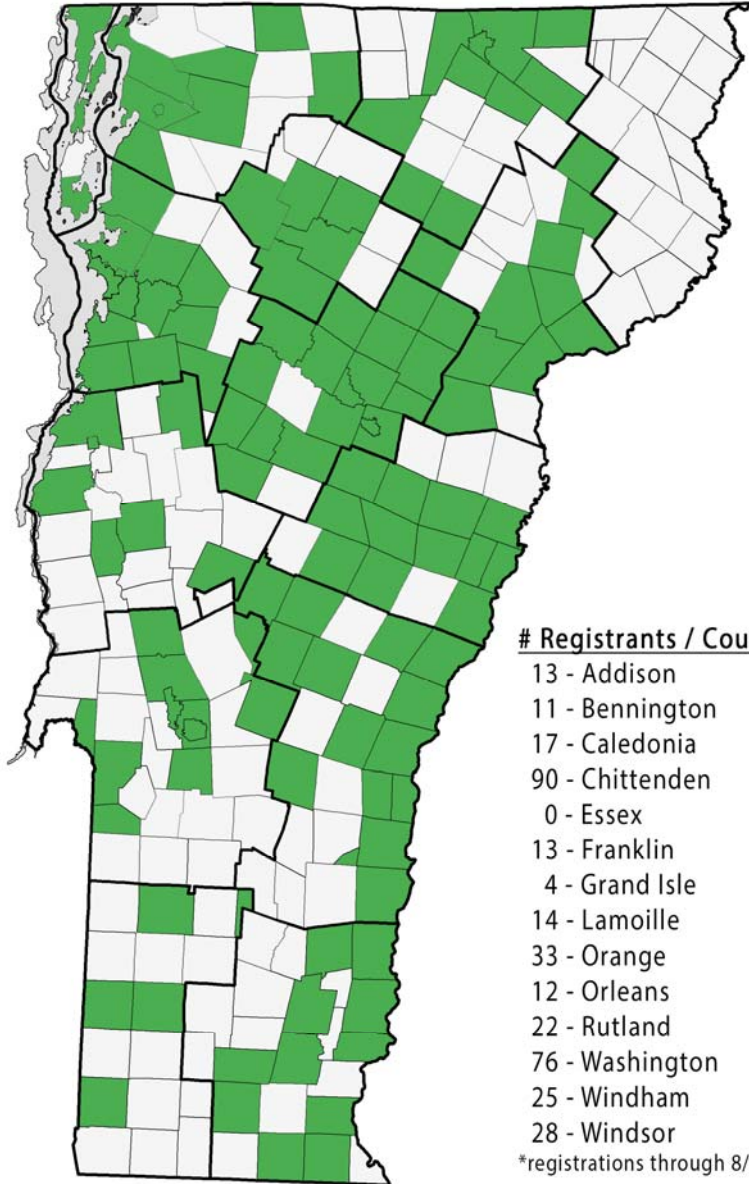
Agenda

- P7 Developing and Reimagining Community Gathering**..... **Conant**, Rm 102
Spaces: Community Centers, Co-Working Spaces, and more
MODERATOR: Belan Antensaye, *City of Burlington Racial Equity, Inclusion & Belonging*
PANELISTS: Mark Hughes, *Vermont Racial Justice Alliance* | Danny Lang, *REclaimED* | Baird Morgan, *Pittsford Village Farm* | Dawn & Greg Tatro, *Jenna’s Promise*
- P8 Youth Driving Change: Youth-Led Community Initiatives** **Green**, Rm 224
MODERATOR: Lindsey Halman and Christie Howell, *UP For Learning*
PANELISTS: Adrianna Corbett, *Montpelier* | Maisie Franke, *Duxbury* | Ana Lindert-Boyes, *Plainfield* | Auishma Pradhan, *South Burlington* | Olivia Scharnberg, *Montpelier*
- P9 Please Don’t Go! Attracting, Supporting, and Retaining**..... **Green**, Rm 228
New Residents
MODERATOR: Tino Charles Rutanhira, *Vermont Professionals of Color Network*
PANELISTS: Sara Defilippi, *Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing* | Seth Leonard, *Vermont Housing Finance Agency* | Dora Urujeni, *Community Asylum Seekers Project* | Curtiss Reed, Jr., *Vermont Partnership for Fairness & Diversity* | Gillian Sewake, *Discover St. Johnsbury*
- N3 BYOI (Bring Your Own Ideas): Connecting with Peers and**..... **Campus Center**
Resource Leaders
SESSION LEADER: Jenna Koloski, *VT Council on Rural Development*
RESOURCE LEADERS:
Community Facilities: Infrastructure and Buildings: Jon Michael Muise and Misty Sinsigalli, *USDA Rural Development*
Grants and Foundation Support for Community Initiatives: Jamison Lerner, *Johnson Family Foundation* | Kate McCarthy, *Vermont Community Foundation*
Outdoor Recreation Programs and Facilities: Jessica Brodie, *Vermont Recreation & Parks Association* | Becca Washburn and Sherri Winnie, *Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation*
Project Planning & Implementation: Julia Connell, *Agency of Commerce & Community Development*
Leadership Skills Development & Support: Alyssa Johnson, *VT Council on Rural Development* | Monique Priestley, *Vermont Leadership Institute*
- 4:00 Conclusions and Action**..... **Judd Hall**
- 4:15 Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream!**..... **Judd Hall**

From Pre-Summit Poll of Registrants

Who is here today?

Over 400 participants from 130 Vermont cities and towns.



From Pre-Summit Poll of Registrants

What are the issues you are working on in your community?

- 55 - Housing
- 45 - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- 35 - Community Outreach/
Communications/Engagement
- 17 - Climate Change
- 12 - Food Security
- 11 - Art Access & Engagement
- 11 - Economic Development
- 11 - Education
- 11 - Recreation
- 11 - Workforce Development
- 10 - Youth Activities & Engagement
- 9 - Accessibility
- 9 - Community Connections &
Development
- 9 - Health
- 8 - Infrastructure
- 8 - Transportation
- 7 - Childcare
- 7 - Safety
- 6 - Environment
- 6 - Resource Navigation
- 6 - Volunteerism
- 5 - Broadband
- 5 - Building Strong Governance
- 5 - Energy Efficiency
- 5 - Farming & Agricultural Support
- 5 - Supporting Local Businesses
- 4 - Beautifying Neighborhoods
- 4 - Building Community Trust
- 4 - Economic Vitality
- 4 - Employment
- 4 - Local Leadership
- 3 - Affordability
- 3 - Building Friendships & Neighborliness
- 3 - Community Centers
- 3 - Health Equity
- 3 - Healthcare
- 3 - Mental Health
- 3 - More Welcoming, Diverse
Communities
- 3 - Planning for the Future
- 3 - Road Safety
- 3 - Substance Abuse & Recovery
- 3 - Tourism
- 2 - Civic Engagement
- 2 - Clean Water
- 2 - Family Support
- 2 - Financial Stability
- 2 - Fundraising
- 2 - Increasing Populations of Young
Families
- 2 - Poverty
- 1 - Balancing Tradition
- 1 - Blood Donation
- 1 - Building places for all ages
- 1 - Capacity Building
- 1 - Community Events & Gathering
- 1 - Emergency Preparedness
- 1 - Financial Literacy
- 1 - Food Systems
- 1 - Giving Back
- 1 - Hazard Resilience
- 1 - Historical Society
- 1 - Homelessness
- 1 - Immigrant Support & Retention
- 1 - Increased Partnerships with
Community Organizations
- 1 - LGBTQIA Community
- 1 - Local Food Economy
- 1 - Natural Ecosystem Preservation
- 1 - Outdoor Education
- 1 - Outdoor Lands Stewardship
- 1 - Political Polarity
- 1 - Recruitment & Retention
- 1 - Removing Social Barriers
- 1 - Revitalization
- 1 - Self Sufficiency
- 1 - Welcoming New Leadership &
Balancing

What do you need as a leader to better serve your community?

- 63 - Funding & Fundraising Strategies
- 37 - Communication
- 37 - Local Connections & Collaboration
- 37 - Networking & Relationship Building
- 29 - Community Engagement
- 26 - Time
- 21 - Empathy, Awareness, & Understanding
- 21 - Resources
- 19 - Professional Development
- 18 - Workforce
- 13 - Technical Assistance & Training
- 12 - Local Participation
- 11 - Energy & Enthusiasm
- 11 - New Perspectives
- 10 - Support
- 9 - Affordable Housing & Space
- 9 - Volunteers
- 8 - Creativity
- 8 - Rural Models & Case Studies
- 7 - Citizen Buy-In
- 7 - Courage & Determination
- 7 - Data
- 7 - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- 7 - Patience
- 6 - Being Heard
- 6 - Selectboard Leadership
- 6 - Trust
- 5 - Accessibility
- 5 - Confidence & Empowerment
- 5 - Passion
- 5 - Positive Attitude
- 5 - Youth & YP Engagement
- 4 - Broadband
- 4 - Inspiration
- 4 - Organization
- 4 - Vision
- 3 - Acceptance
- 3 - Infrastructure
- 3 - Respect
- 3 - Teamwork
- 2 - Advocacy & Policy Change
- 2 - Alignment
- 2 - Childcare
- 2 - Effective Delegation
- 2 - Experience
- 2 - Influence
- 2 - Opportunities
- 2 - Reflection & Feedback
- 2 - Strong Voice
- 2 - Support for Environmental Care
- 1 - Celebration
- 1 - Financial Stability
- 1 - Stigma Reduction
- 1 - Visibility
- 1 - Vulnerability

VCRD Leadership Awards

VCRD's Leadership Awards celebrate 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.

Vermont Lifetime Leadership Award

Sarah Carpenter, a native of Burlington, was elected Burlington City Councilor in 2020 and serves on the Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee, the Charter Change Committee and as Chair of the Human Resources Committee. She also is Chair of the Vermont Rental Housing Advisory Board. Sarah served as Executive Director of Vermont Housing Finance Agency 1998-2018 and as Executive Director of Cathedral Square Corp from 1983-1998.

Brenda Torpy was a founder, and the Director of Champlain Housing Trust from 1991-2021. CHT is internationally recognized for its leadership in community-led, permanently affordable housing, receiving the UN World Habitat Award in 2008. Brenda started as a community organizer in rural Vermont, worked as Bernie's first Housing Director in Burlington, and at the VHFA on Policy and Program Development. She formed and led Northgate Non-profit to acquire, preserve and improve 336 at-risk affordable rentals on behalf of the tenants who govern it now. Brenda was a Ford Foundation leader for a Changing World, and has served on the Advisory Committees of the region's Home Loan and Federal Reserve Banks and the Boards of the National CLT Network and successor Grounded Solutions Network. Brenda now leads TA\CHT providing direct training and technical assistance on these models across the US and internationally.

Vermont Community Leadership Award

Pamela Parsons was hired as the Executive Director of Northern Tier Center for Health (NOTCH) in 1999. Pam graduated from the University of Vermont with a Bachelor's degree in Home Economics. Her diverse interests and talents result in a broad employment history, including work at Franklin County Home Health, in education, and as co-owner of a construction company. Through Pam's leadership, NOTCH has thrived – providing good jobs in a region of the state that has a large population with family income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Pam is actively involved in her community and has served on several Boards of Directors including those of OneCare VT, Bi-State Primary Care Association, Vermont Rural Ventures, Richford Economic Advancement Corporation, Richford Renaissance Corporation, and Pharmacy Network, LLC. Pam has committed herself to improving the health and welfare of area residents. Her involvement with multiple community partners epitomizes Pam's collaborative and innovative approach for taking care of people.

Speakers

Belan Antensaye *Public Policy and Research Analyst, City of Burlington Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Department* | bantensaye@burlingtonvt.gov

P7. Developing and Reimagining Community Gathering Spaces: Community Centers: Co-Working Spaces, Public Green Space, and More

Belan has focused her personal and professional efforts on community development, health equity, and utilizing public policy and the convening power of government to empower communities. She currently works as the Strategy and Innovation Manager for the City of Burlington's Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Department where she oversaw the development of the first-ever comprehensive Racial Equity Strategic Roadmap and works with community stakeholders and City staff to leverage resources and data to implement its directives. Belan is also the co-founder and strategic lead of the Vermont Health Equity Initiative – an organization that utilizes data, education, policy, and collective action to address local health disparities.

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

P2. Developing and Implementing Community-Based Climate Solutions

Laura strives to continually engage with systems thinking and community-based initiatives to advance collaborative, healthy, energy efficient, and adaptable places. Laura's diverse work experience includes solar electric system design and installation, biodiesel production, a research fellow at the Energy Studies in Buildings Lab (ESBL) 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 by foot, bike, boat or skis with her husband and two young children.

Alex Beck *Initiative Director, Southern Vermont Working Communities Challenge* | abeck@brattleborodevelopment.com

P1. Leading Systems Change at the Regional Scale: The VT Working Communities Challenge

Alex Beck (he/him) is a Brattleboro resident, and holds a MA in Service, Leadership, and Management from SIT Graduate Institute. He has extensive experience in community development, youth engagement, and social entrepreneurship in rural economies in the US and abroad. He coordinates the Southern Vermont Workforce Center of Excellence, and facilitates the creation, organization, and distribution of regional workforce and education opportunities for Vermonters throughout the Windham region. His current focus as the Welcoming Communities Manager is promoting an inclusive and supportive community and economy for New Vermonters. Alex has a decade of experience promoting economic justice, equity, and inclusion.

Ted Brady *Executive Director, VT League of Cities and Towns* | tbrady@vlct.org

F4. Encouraging Community Cooperation: Connecting Municipal and Community Volunteers for Local Success

Ted Brady is the Executive Director of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) – a statewide non-profit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1967 with the mission of serving and strengthening Vermont local government. All 247 cities and towns and another 142 units of local government (such as villages and water districts) are currently members. VLCT offers support, knowledge, representation, insurance and connection to its members. Brady served as Deputy Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development in the Scott Administration.

Speakers

During his 4 years with the Agency, he assisted with the pandemic response and recovery, administered state and federal technical assistance, tax credit, and grant programs, championed outdoor recreation expansion, and worked to make Vermont a great place to live, work and play. Previously Brady was appointed by President Obama as the Vermont and New Hampshire State Director for USDA Rural Development, where he oversaw the administration of more than \$1 billion in housing, business, and community development loans and grants. Brady spent more than a decade working as a community and economic development liaison in US Senator Patrick Leahy's office, both in Washington, DC and in Vermont.

Jessica Brodle *Executive Director*, Vermont Recreation & Parks Association | jessica@vrpa.org

N3. BYOI (Bring Your Own Ideas): Connecting with Peers and Resource Leaders

Jessica is the Executive Director of the Vermont Recreation & Parks Association, which provides resources and trainings for all the parks and recreation professionals in the state of Vermont. Jess has a BS in Recreational Management & Policy from the University of New Hampshire and started her career in Massachusetts where she grew up. Over the course of 10+ years Jess worked for three different communities in Massachusetts as Parks & Recreation Director. She moved to Vermont in 2019 with her husband and three young kids and loves living in the heart of Vermont so close to all the outdoor recreational opportunities that are available here. She has two horses, is an avid equestrian, and also loves to ski, hike, run, bike, and anything else outside.

Tayt Brooks *Deputy Secretary*, VT Agency of Commerce & Community Development | Tayt.Brooks@vermont.gov

P6. Watershed Moment: Accessing Unprecedented Funding Opportunities in Your Community

Tayt Brooks is the Deputy Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Before being appointed to this position in March of 2021 by Governor Phil Scott, he worked for the Governor as director of affordability and economic initiatives, starting in January 2017. He also spent time with the Agency from 2008 to 2011, under the administration of Governor Jim Douglas, serving as both deputy commissioner and commissioner of the Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development. Brooks has a bachelor's degree in history from St. Lawrence University. He lives in St. Albans with his wife and two daughters. He has served his communities in the past as select board chair and school board member.

Katie Buckley *Director*, Federal Funding Assistance Program VT League of Cities and Towns | kbuckley@vlct.org

P6. Watershed Moment: Accessing Unprecedented Funding Opportunities in Your Community

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, and helps them 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, Agency of Commerce & Community Development, 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.

Carrie Caouette-DeLallo *Founder and Director, Chelsea Arts Collective* | chelseaaartscollective@gmail.com

P3. The Creative Economy in Your Community: Integrating Arts, Humanities, and Economy

Carrie Caouette-De Lallo, with her daughter, Sarah, started the Chelsea Arts Collective in 2016. Their focus has been on creating inclusive community arts projects and making the arts accessible in a rural community. They started the Chelsea Barn Quilt Project and The Chelsea Arts on the Green Market and Festival.

Rae Carter *Founding Co-Creator, EmpowR* | RaeCarterEmpowR@gmail.com

S7. Having Necessary Community Conversations: Racism in Vermont

Rae Carter (she/her) is a dialogue facilitator, communication navigator, culture builder, and anti-racism educator. She is the founding co-creator of EmpowR, a container for personal, organizational, and cultural transformation and is an associate with The Creative Discourse Group. She brings national somatic abolitionist work to Vermont in her work with Resmaa Menakem through both Education for Racial Equity and the Cultural Somatics Training Institute and is an alum of the Art of Navigating Change program with Rockwood Leadership Institute in Oakland, CA. She has facilitated multiple statewide Vermont social impact campaigns as a communications business owner, director, and educator, including roles implementing legislative policy with Vermont's Farm to Plate food system and coordinating private sector / government / nonprofit / institutional cross-collaboration. Rae lives in Plainfield and stewards Grandmother Cherry Sanctuary, offering educational and community programs to co-create new ways of being in relationship with our bodies, each other, and the Earth.

John Castle *Executive Director, VT Rural Education Collaborative* | vrecdirector@gmail.com

S5. Freedom & Unity, Continuity & Change: An Introduction to Navigating Vermont's Polarities

John Castle worked for almost 30 years as a teacher, coach and administrator in Vermont Schools. Most recently, he served as Superintendent of Schools for North Country Supervisory Union and is currently the executive director for the Vermont Rural Education Collaborative.

Michelle Caver *Past Post Commander, VFW Post 782* | michcaver@gmail.com

P5. Implementing Local and Regional Housing Solutions

Michelle Caver is a 22-year US Army Veteran who participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2004-2005. Michelle is a member of Vermont's first Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, the Howard Plant VFW Post 782 in Burlington. She served as the Post Commander from 2018-21 and currently oversees the financial operations.

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

S5. Freedom & Unity, Continuity & Change: An Introduction to Navigating Vermont's Polarities

Susan Clark is coauthor of *Slow Democracy: Rediscovering Community, Bringing Decision Making Back Home*; 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 engagement. She serves as Middlesex town moderator.

Speakers

Maura Collins *Executive Director, Vermont Housing Finance Agency* | mcollins@vhfa.org

P5. Implementing Local and Regional Housing Solutions

Maura Collins became Executive Director of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency in January 2019. She is celebrating her 20th anniversary at VHFA, during which she worked in all but one department prior to becoming the Agency's director. Collins serves on eight boards and commissions and lives in the new City of Essex Junction with her husband and three young children.

Julia Connell *Community Development Specialist, Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development* | Julia.Connell@vermont.gov

N3. BYOI (Bring Your Own Ideas): Connecting with Peers and Resource Leaders

Julia Connell is a Community Development Specialist with the Vermont Community Development Program in the Department of Housing & Community Development. In this role, she works to help fund a wide range of projects from affordable housing to childcare, economic development, community facilities, planning and more all across the state. Julia recently moved to Barre after living in Burlington for many years, and is excited to get more involved in her new community.

Adrianna Corbett *Student*

P8. Youth Driving Change: Youth-Led Community Initiatives Around the State

Adrianna Corbett, Montpelier, 13, 8th grade at Main Street Middle School in Montpelier, works with UP For Learning in her school, and in the greater Vermont community in order to reform a culture that currently doesn't recognize or respect youth voices as equal when they are often equally, if not more affected by the decisions being made.

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

F2. Building Bridges: Boosting Civic Engagement and Building Community Connection and Unity

Paul Costello served as the Executive Director of the Vermont Council on Rural Development from 2000 to 2021 and since then has been using his deep facilitation skills in other capacities across the state. Paul attended UVM before earning a PhD in intellectual history at McGill. He has served on boards ranging from corrections education to cooperatives, 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.

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

S1. VUCA Leadership: Leading through Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity;

S8. Sustainable Leadership for the Long Term: Avoiding Burnout and Fostering Delegation and New Leadership

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. Our highly experiential processes are based on research that produces deeper, more meaningful understanding and implementation in a world of possibility.

Sarah Danly *Initiative Director*, White River Valley Consortium |

sdanly@vitalcommunities.org

P1. Leading Systems Change at the Regional Scale: The VT Working Communities Challenge

Sarah joined Vital Communities in 2022 to support the White River Valley Consortium, 11+ towns working to collaboratively address community challenges, beginning with a 3-year project on affordable housing as part of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's Working Communities Challenge program. She previously worked with the Vermont Farm to Plate Network, and is also involved in grassroots community development work including the 4-Town Coalition and White River Land Collaborative. She has lived in Vermont for 8 years, all of them in Royalton.

Xusana Davls *Executive Director*, Vermont Office of Racial Equity |

xusana.davls@vermont.gov

F1. Demographic Change in Vermont: Creating Dialogue, Engagement, and Support

Xusana Davis serves as the State of Vermont's Executive Director of Racial Equity; appointed to the position in June 2019 by Governor Phil Scott. She works with state agencies to identify and address systemic racial disparities, ensure that equity goals and objectives are incorporated throughout the State's operations, and provide strategic and policy guidance on equity issues. Previously, she served as Director of Health & Housing Strategic Initiatives at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and as the Director of the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus of the New York City Council. She holds a Juris Doctor with a concentration in International Human Rights Law from New York Law School, where she also directed a civil liberties education program for low-income youth and youth of color. She studied Anthropology and Philosophy at Fordham University, earning the Rev. J. Franklin Ewing, S.J. Award for writing on the relationship between global human rights violations and the proliferation of HIV/AIDS. Xusana is first-generation in the US, and proud to be a Spanish-fluent Latina who approaches her work from a multicultural perspective.

Johanna de Graffenreid *Outreach Organizer*, Vermont Creative Network |

johanna@vermontcreativenetwork.org

P3. The Creative Economy in Your Community: Integrating Arts, Humanities, and Economy

Johanna serves as the Vermont Creative Network (VCN) Outreach Organizer. Her work centers around advancing the goals of the VCN Action Plan and building the capacity of the Network. This includes coordinating the VCN steering team and supporting six "creative zone agents" in organizing and network activities across Vermont. Johanna has worked as a community organizer, advocate, lobbyist, campaign director, and popular education trainer for almost 20 years. Her passion is championing rural communities as places of powerful change and opportunity for all. When not meeting with leaders in the creative economy, Johanna can be found exploring the dirt roads of Vermont while listening to country music, throwing herself up and down steep mountains (on foot and ski), or visiting one of the many nanobreweries her favorite state has to offer.

Speakers

Sara Defilippi *Director of Partnerships and Community Engagement, VT Dept. of Tourism and Marketing* | sara.defilippi@vermont.gov

P9. Please Don't Let Them Go! Attracting, Supporting and Retaining New Residents

Sara DeFilippi is the Director of Partnerships and Community Engagement at the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing. In this role Sara oversees ThinkVermont.com, the State's website for relocation information and manages the Connect with a Vermonter program, part of ThinkVermont.com. As someone who's relocated to Vermont herself, Sara loves talking to potential Vermonters about what life is like in our beautiful state.

Cindy Delano *Barton Giving Garden* | delanocindyj@gmail.com

P4. Creative Community Place-Making: Events, Pop-ups, Design, and Access

Cindy is a retired healthcare executive of 35 years. She splits her volunteer time between neighborhood organizations and a community giving garden. Her many interests revolve mostly around gardening, food, herbs and oils. She is a pharmacist by training and loves to experiment with recipes, plants and plant-based processes.

Megan Durling *Head of School, East Burke School* | megan@eastburkeschool.org

P2. Developing and Implementing Community-Based Climate Solutions

Megan and her husband share the joy of leading East Burke School in its new mission of teaching high school students to be leaders in climate and community resilience. With a B.A. in Anthropology and Environmental Studies from Mount Holyoke College and an M.A. in Liberal Arts from St. John's College, Megan has led teen inquiry in a wide range of subjects over the past twelve years in communities from Mississippi to Arizona to Vermont. Her passion is helping young people discover their common humanity, their individual agency, and their collective power to repair our broken world.

Rajnil Eddins *Poet, Emcee, Teaching Artist* | theirnamesaremine@gmail.com

Plenary Performance

Originally from Seattle Washington, Spoken Word Poet/Emcee and Teaching Artist Rajnii Eddins has been engaging diverse community audiences for over 27 years. He was the youngest member of the Afrikan American Writers Alliance at age 11 and has been actively sharing with youth and community in Vermont since 2010. Rajnii's diverse talents and passions allow him to offer a wide variety of powerful experiences that foster connection, learning, and mutual growth. He thrives at creating spaces that are educational, explorative, and celebratory, whether in a classroom, a conference hall, a community center, or online.

Jordyn Fitch *Community Engagement Producer, CATV* | jordyn@catv8.org

P4. Creative Community Place-Making: Events, Pop-ups, Design, and Access

Jordyn Fitch (they/them) grew up in Miramar FL, but if you ever ask, they'll say Miami because who here really knows where Miramar, Florida is? They attended Dartmouth College and pursued a Film and Media Studies major, planning on declaring a minor at some point in something that would assuage parental fears of having a child that is a Film and Media Studies major. It never happened. They are beyond thrilled for the opportunity to put it all to use – educating, empowering, and entertaining the Upper Valley community through media arts.

Maisie Franke *Student*

P8. Youth Driving Change: Youth-Led Community Initiatives Around the State

Maisie Franke, Duxbury, 17, a rising senior at Harwood Union High School in Duxbury believes

that the creativity and innovation that results from youth working side by side with adults is what drives her to empower young people.

Jeff Gephart *Serial Enabler*, Town of Rochester | vtwise@together.net

P2. Developing and Implementing Community-Based Climate Solutions

Jeffrey Gephart is the volunteer Energy Coordinator for the town of Rochester and leads the ad hoc, Valley Climate & Energy Action Committee and the Rochester Area Climate Initiative. Retired end of the 2020, for 23 years his firms provided residential new construction energy efficiency program design, marketing, and implementation services for Vermont utilities and, since 2000, he provided those services for Efficiency Vermont, Vermont's statewide energy efficiency utility. Jeff's work with Architects, builders, and homebuyers helped them build, renovate, and certify homes to high standards of energy efficiency and sustainability and from 2008 to retirement, Jeff led the Vermont Green Home Alliance, a volunteer alliance of construction, finance, and real estate trade associations working to attain market transformation – meaning value for sustainable buildings – by dramatically increasing building performance education and information sharing with real estate professionals, appraisers, lenders, MLS, and Realtors.

Parwinder Grewal *President*, Vermont State University

Summit Welcome

Dr. Parwinder Grewal joined Vermont State University (VSU) as its inaugural president in July 2022. The University, comprised of the current Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, and Vermont Technical College will welcome its first class in fall 2023 and will be the first statewide, hybrid institution in the United States. Dr. Grewal brings over 25 years of higher education experience and 10 years of biotechnology research and development experience in industry and government in six US states and five countries. Most recently, he served at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, a new university created through the merger of three long-standing legacy institutions spanning multiple campuses and communities where he played key leadership roles. Dr. Grewal has a BS in Agriculture and a MS in Plant Pathology from Punjab Agricultural University, and a Ph.D. in Zoology from Imperial College London. Dr. Grewal is an internationally recognized nematologist and is ranked among the top two percent of the world's most-cited scientists. His most recent research has focused on community resilience through local self-reliance in food, energy, and water.

Lindsey Halman *Executive Director*, Up For Learning | lindsey@upforlearning.org

P8. Youth Driving Change: Youth-Led Community Initiatives Around the State

Lindsey Halman (she/her) is committed to exploring radically inclusive education and multiple ways of knowing. She believes there is no more compelling time than right now to ask, "how do I meet this moment with courage, vulnerability, and creativity?" She joined UP for Learning (Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning) in 2018 after 15 years as a middle level educator, leader and advocate. Prior to joining UP, she co-founded The Edge Academy at Essex Middle School. The Edge Academy served as a model and learning laboratory for many educators throughout Vermont, and beyond, as an example of reimagined education that centered relationships with youth, their families and the community as the driving force for deep engagement and change.

Meg Hammond *Executive Director*, Generator | director@generatorvt.com

P3. The Creative Economy in Your Community: Integrating Arts, Humanities, and Economy

Meg is the Executive Director of Generator, Burlington's premier makerspace located in the southend arts & innovation district. Meg has been a leader in community arts and education in

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Vermont for the last 15 years. She is passionate about supporting artists, entrepreneurs and seeing people and their communities reach their full potential. Meg was co-founder and CEO of the Langdon Street Café, the collectively run art and music venue in Montpelier that Seven Days named “the crown jewel of the Montpelier arts community.” Hammond came to Generator in January 2020 from Goddard College where she was Director of Development. At Goddard she led a successful campaign for a multi-phase renovation of the historic Haybarn Theatre in 2014 and produced the Haybarn Theatre Concert Series featuring world-class performers. Hammond was costume designer and stage manager for the original Vermont productions of Hadestown which went on to Broadway and won 8 Tony awards in 2019. She is a painter, DIY maker, gardener, and has a passion for the great outdoors.

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

P6. Watershed Moment: Accessing Unprecedented Funding Opportunities in Your Community

Charlie Hancock is a consulting forester and conservationist at North Woods Forestry, 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 at North Woods Forestry, 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, serves as vice-chair of the State of Vermont’s Working Lands Enterprise Board, and is a member of the Vermont Climate Council Ag. and Ecosystem Subcommittee.

Rich Holschuh *Director, Atowi Project* | rich@atowi.org

Community Spark Stories

Rich is a resident of Wantastegok (Brattleboro VT) and an independent historic and cultural researcher. He has served on the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs and is a public liaison and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Elnu Abenaki, members of the contemporary Indigenous community. Rich is founder of the Atowi Project. His work draws upon indigenous history, linguistics, geography, and culture to share beneficial ways of seeing and being in relationship with place.

Becky Holt *Executive Director, Vermont Story Lab* | beckyholtvt@gmail.com

S6. Effective Community Communications and Story-Telling

Becky Holt is the executive director of Vermont Story Lab: “For me, story is about relationship – the powerful connection between one human being and another that can spur us to feel, to inspire, and to act.” Becky began her career in journalism, where she was an award-winning newspaper and online editor for 20 years. She then spent a decade in nonprofit development and communications, where she used storytelling to improve understanding, create empathy around complex human services issues, and fundraise to support the social services. Becky, through her work at Vermont Story Lab, helps nonprofit organizations, businesses, and individuals learn how through interactive workshops, personalized trainings, and one-on-one coaching to identify and share their stories. Becky has a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She lives in Burlington with her husband and daughter.

Christle Howell *Program Associate, Up For Learning* | christie@upforlearning.org

P8. Youth Driving Change: Youth-Led Community Initiatives Around the State

Christie Howell is a program associate and communications coordinator at UP for Learning. She was a middle and high school English instructor for 18 years, and has also worked as an independent school DEI director and program manager for a college women's and gender center. She is passionate about literature, social justice, and youth voice.

Mark Hughes *Executive Director, Vermont Racial Justice Alliance* | mark@justiceforallvt.org

P7. Developing and Reimagining Community Gathering Spaces: Community Centers: Co-Working Spaces, Public Green Space, and More

Reverend Mark Hughes is a community leader, organizer, advocate, trainer, racial justice activist and abolitionist. He is Founder and Executive Director of Justice For All and the Vermont Racial Justice Alliance, and Principle of the Vermont Racial Equity Association

Jeannie Jenkins *Bennington County* | jeanniejenkins829@gmail.com

P2. Developing and Implementing Community-Based Climate Solutions

Jeannie has been involved in a number of advocacy roles over the years including working as a biologist for NJPIRG on clean water issues, serving on the Bennington County Energy Committee, and as an outreach volunteer for WindowDressers. As a Coordinator of Academic Services at the Community College of Vermont in Bennington, she worked with students, faculty, and community members and currently serves as chair of the Bennington Select Board.

Alyssa Johnson *Community Projects Associate, VT Council on Rural Development* | alyssa@vtrural.org

N2. World Cafe: Challenges and Opportunities for Vermont Community Leaders

In her role as Community Projects Associate, Alyssa connects with leaders and resources providers across the state and provides ongoing technical support to communities as they implement projects for community and economic vitality. Prior to joining VCRD in 2021, Alyssa 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.

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

F3. Inviting and Engaging New Leadership; and N3. BYOI (Bring Your Own Ideas): Connecting with Peers and Resource Leaders

Jenna Koloski is the Director of Community Engagement and Policy where she 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.

Saudia Lamont *Co-Creator, EmpowR* | shyaneright@yahoo.com

S7. Having Necessary Community Conversations: Racism in Vermont

Saudia LaMont (she/her) is a community organizer, advocate, facilitator, trainer, racial equity consultant, and author. She is a 2022 graduate of Emerge Vermont, 2021 graduate of Bright Leadership Institute, and a current Democratic candidate for the Vermont House of Representatives in the Lamoille-Washington District and a Rights and Democracy-endorsed

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candidate. Saudia is a co-creator with EmpowR, serves on the Board of Directors at Lamoille County Mental Health, and is a member of their Children Youth and Family Services standing committee. As a public speaker and workshop presenter, Saudia facilitates understanding of racial justice, health equity, housing access, survivor recovery, and restoring humanity. She is a recent graduate of Cornell University's Diversity and Inclusion program. She's a mother of two awesome humans who enjoys networking with community partners, identifying resources, and reinforcing connections to help create a stronger sense of community. Saudia was born and raised in Bronx NY, and moved to Morrisville in 1995.

Danny Lang *President*, REclaimED | turnedupwoodworx@gmail.com

P7. Developing and Reimagining Community Gathering Spaces: Community Centers: Co-Working Spaces, Public Green Space, and More

Danny Lang is a Maker as well as the President and Founder of REclaimED; a makerspace in Poultney VT. He moved around from Florida to Georgia, back to Florida then to the Catskills of New York State where his family hails from. From there Danny ended up at Green Mountain College in Poultney. He studied renewable energy and ecological design and had a concentration in art and business. Now he lives in the tiny house he built after graduating and teaches people how to make their ideas become reality in a variety of different materials and processes at REclaimED.

Seth Leonard *Managing Director of Community Development*, Vermont Housing Finance Agency | SLeonard@vhfa.org

P9. Please Don't Let Them Go! Attracting, Supporting and Retaining New Residents

Seth Leonard serves as the Managing Director of Community Development for the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, overseeing the agency's multi-family development lending, tax credit allocations, asset management, compliance, research, and community relations. Seth started his career in finance at a CDFI, and also served at USDA Rural Development as the Housing Director for Vermont and New Hampshire. Seth served on City Council and eventually as Mayor of the City of Winooski. Seth graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and completed the University of Notre Dame's Leadership in a Complex Era through the Mendoza Executive Leadership Program. He recently joined the Center for Community Investment's Fulcrum Fellowship with a focus on advancing racial equity and supporting disinvested communities to achieve their environmental, social, and economic priorities.

Jamison Lerner *Program Officer*, Johnson Family Foundation | jlerner@jffnd.org

N3. BYOI (Bring Your Own Ideas): Connecting with Peers and Resource Leaders

Jamie Lerner joined the Johnson Family Foundation in the spring of 2017. He leads grant-making in Vermont and helps guide grants in the Justice portfolio in New York City. Jamie enjoys seeing small, community-led efforts thrive. In the spring of 2019, he co-founded REclaimED, a nonprofit community hub and makerspace with the goal of providing creative, educational, and mentoring opportunities in Poultney and the surrounding areas. He currently serves on the board of REclaimED as well as the Poultney Historical Society.

Ana Lindert-Boyes *Student*

P8. Youth Driving Change: Youth-Led Community Initiatives Around the State

Ana Lindert-Boyes, Plainfield, 18 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.

Brian Lowe *Executive Director*, VT Council on Rural Development | brian@vtrural.org

Opening and Community Leadership and Lifetime Achievement Awards

Brian joined the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) as Executive Director in the fall of 2021. VCRD runs an annual Rural Summit, implements programs supporting working lands and the climate economy across Vermont, and conducts Community Visits that help rural communities build priorities, set action plans, and build connections to resources. VCRD also provides customized facilitation on rural development policy at the local, regional and state level, including more than a dozen major rural policy council efforts and significant programs to advance the digital economy. Prior to joining the VCRD team, he held a number of roles with the City of Burlington, including serving as the City's COVID response leader. Before that, he worked at the US Department of the Treasury, with different organizations in Syria and Afghanistan, and served in the US Navy Reserve.

Keith Marks *Director*, Next Stage Arts | keith@nextstagearts.org

P3. The Creative Economy in Your Community: Integrating Arts, Humanities, and Economy

Keith Marks is the Executive Director of Next Stage Arts, based in Putney. A transplant from Florida, Marks ran numerous community and arts-focused projects, Avant Arts, hosted a weekly radio show on Jacksonville NPR station WJCT, published hundreds of articles in various print and online periodicals, and served in marketing and communication roles for nonprofits. Marks graduated from the University of North Florida with a bachelor's degree in journalism, a master's degree in education from Tel Aviv University, and is currently enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy for an advanced degree in Nonprofit Leadership. He lives in Putney with his wife and two children.

Geoff Martin *Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator*, Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission | gmartin@trorc.org

P2. Developing and Implementing Community-Based Climate Solutions

Geoff is the Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator at the Two Rivers-Ottawuechee Regional Commission, working with Barnard, Bradford, Norwich, Sharon, Strafford, Thetford, and Woodstock to lessen overall energy use, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and move to renewable generation of electricity within participating towns. Geoff's work focuses on energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable production by the participating towns in their operations. He holds a Master's in Environmental Sciences from Emory University and a Bachelor's in Development Studies from Brown University. He worked as a BPI-certified energy auditor before serving as the Town of Hartford's Energy Coordinator.

Maeve McBride *CPG Enterprises* | mcmaeve@gmail.com

S3. Raising Money: Fundraising for Community Projects

Maeve McBride is a consultant with CPG Enterprises, a firm that provides fundraising advice, support, and training for nonprofits in Northern New England. She has a range of fundraising experiences in the non-profit sector, academia, and political campaigns. She was the executive director of 350Vermont until 2019. Maeve is a mother of two, a community organizer, trainer, and earth lover.

Kate McCarthy *Program Officer*, Vermont Community Foundation | kmccarthy@vermontcf.org

N3. BYOI (Bring Your Own Ideas): Connecting with Peers and Resource Leaders

Kate McCarthy is a Senior Program Officer on the Grants and Community Impact Team at the

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Vermont Community Foundation. She brings experience as a community builder, collaborator, and land use planner to her work of supporting community-led projects that help people and places thrive. Prior to her work at the Community Foundation, Kate supported the creation of livable communities at the Vermont Natural Resources Council, helped municipalities with planning and zoning at the Windham Regional Commission, and advised college students on study abroad options at Central Washington University. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Rice University and a Masters of Regional Planning from Cornell University. Kate is a board member of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and lives in Montpelier with her family.

King McMillan *Executive Director and Founder, Fight For Kids Foundation Inc* | fightforkidsfoundation@gmail.com

P4. Creative Community Place-Making: Events, Pop-ups, Design, and Access

King Mcmillan, is the Executive Director for Fight for Kids Foundation, business owner, world champion.

Stephen Michon *Working Cities Manager, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston* | Stephen.Michon@bos.frb.org

P1. Leading Systems Change at the Regional Scale: The VT Working Communities Challenge

Stephen Michon joined the Boston Fed to lead the Working Communities Challenge initiative in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine and work on inclusive growth issues in New England. Prior to the Fed, Stephen spent more than two decades at national consulting companies FutureWorks and Mt. Auburn Associates where he provided strategic economic development consulting to big and small cities, rural places, states, philanthropy, community college systems, and business-civic groups. Within this work he had special focus on talent development, private sector engagement, and inclusive economic development strategy. Stephen is a former state legislator and ran a nonprofit housing developer prior to his consulting work.

Julie Moore *Chair, VCRD Board* | julie.moore@vermont.gov

Summit Opening

Julie Moore is the Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources where she works to shape Vermont's environmental agenda, focusing on water quality, the forest economy, and the importance of conservation. Moore has diverse experience engaging the public in watershed management programs and activities and prior to her current role has volunteered her expertise for several organizations dedicated to improving Vermont's water resources. She currently serves on the boards of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Vermont Council on Rural Development, as well as ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center. Moore earned a B.S. in civil engineering, cum laude, from the University at Buffalo and an M.S. in environmental science and policy from the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering at the Johns Hopkins University. She is a registered professional engineer in Vermont and New Hampshire. Moore currently lives in Middlesex with her husband and two children.

Bald Morgan *Pittsford Village Farm* | cbairdmorgan@gmail.com

P7. Developing and Reimagining Community Gathering Spaces: Community Centers: Co-Working Spaces, Public Green Space, and More

Baird has been a school teacher, a founder of a feeder airline, and has operated a snowshoe manufacturing business. The bending of wood to make snowshoes and an eye for design lead him into a successful furniture manufacturing career. Having lived in Pittsford for the past 53 years, he has been involved on the school board, the planning commission and led a successful

effort to keep the post office from moving out of the center of town. The creation of the Pittsford Village Farm, (a 501c3), as an early childhood education center and a community meeting place is his current focus.

Jon Michael Muise *Area Director*, USDA Rural Development | jon.muise@vt.usda.gov

N3. BYOI (Bring Your Own Ideas): Connecting with Peers and Resource Leaders

Jon-Michael (Max) Muise has 33 years of service with USDA Rural Development. As Area Director his primary focus is on community and economic development. His work targets resources to rural communities looking to implement and develop projects impacting housing, business, infrastructure and essential community services for New Hampshire and Vermont. Muise is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts and the Stockbridge School of Agriculture where he earned degrees in Resource Economics and Business Management.

Devon Neary *Executive Director*, Rutland Regional Planning Commission / Rutland City Alderman | devon@rutlandrpc.org

P4. Creative Community Place-Making: Events, Pop-ups, Design, and Access

Devon Neary is the new Executive Director of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission where he continues the legacy of collaboration in creating strong local economies and vibrant communities. Devon believes in the power of community-based planning and building better places by people and for people. Devon is passionate about helping the Rutland Region Towns realize and achieve their planning and development goals while improving the quality and sense of place in our historic downtowns and village centers. When Devon is not rolling up his planning sleeves you can find him exploring Vermont's great outdoors by ski or bike with his partner and puppy.

Aulshma Pradhan *Student*

P8. Youth Driving Change: Youth-Led Community Initiatives Around the State

Aulshma Pradhan, South Burlington, 15, believes it is important to involve youth voices in community change not only because their future will be greatly affected by what happens in the community but also because their perspective and experience can result in them being valuable contributors to the community.

Monique Priestley *Founder*, The Space on Main Vermont Leadership Institute | mepriestley@gmail.com

N3. BYOI (Bring Your Own Ideas): Connecting with Peers and Resource Leaders

Monique Priestley is the Founder & Executive Director of The Space On Main, a nonprofit community workspace located in Bradford VT. She has served in leadership roles on more than two dozen nonprofit boards and municipal commissions including Vermont Council on Rural Development and the Future of Vermont Action Team. She is a graduate of Vermont Leadership Institute (The Snelling Center for Government), Leadership Upper Valley (Vital Communities), and Changemakers' Table (Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility & High Meadows Fund).

Thato Ratsebe *Deputy Director*, Association of Africans Living in Vermont | tratsebe@aalv-vt.org

Community Spark Stories

In her work as the Deputy Director of AALV (the Association of Africans Living in Vermont), Thato Ratsebe works across a wide range of stakeholders, people of different nationalities, civil society, governments, and executives. She is knowledgeable about media and communications with skills in program coordination and implementation, relationship building, and presentation.

Speakers

Curtis Reed, Jr. *Executive Director*, VT Partnership for Fairness and Diversity | creed@vtpfd.org

P9. Please Don't Let Them Go! Attracting, Supporting and Retaining New Residents

Curtiss Reed, Jr. is President and CEO of the CRJ Consulting Group, L3C of which Vermont Partnership for Fairness & Diversity, Vermont Vision for a Multicultural Future, and I Am a Vermonter are subsidiaries. Reed is also Founder of the Vermont African American Heritage Trail and serves on the board of the Vermont Council on Rural Development.

Aly Richards *Executive Director*, VCRD Board, LGK | aly@letsgrowkids.org

Community Spark Stories

Aly Richards is the CEO of Let's Grow Kids, a statewide organization leading the campaign to solve Vermont's child care crisis by 2025. Prior to this role, Aly served as the deputy chief of staff for Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin where she led several efforts to support early childhood education, including supporting the passage of universal prekindergarten. Richards also served on the 2008 Obama Campaign after graduating with honors in International Relations from Brown University and currently serves as a Trustee of the University of Vermont Medical Center and Vice-Chair of the Board of the Vermont Council on Rural Development. Aly lives in Montpelier with her husband James Pepper, their identical twin toddlers Beau and Wesley, and two dogs Bella and Ellie.

Emily Rosenbaum *Initiative Director*, Working Communities Challenge Lamoille County | emily@uwlamoille.org

P5. Implementing Local and Regional Housing Solutions

Emily Rosenbaum is the initiative director for the Working Communities Challenge of Lamoille, which advances systems change to reduce barriers to employment. The Lamoille team focuses on relationships between businesses and human services, community access to existing resources, and housing. Emily's household includes three teenagers, three dogs, and a very old cat. She is always available to discuss Lamoille's collaborative work, Octavia Butler's unparalleled genius, and the importance of staying off closed trails during mud season.

Kim Rupe *Development and Communications Associate*, Vermont Council on Rural Development | kim@vtrural.org

N1. Community Leadership and Engagement Speed Networking

Kim joined the Vermont Council on Rural Development as the Development & Communications Associate in early 2022. Prior to VCRD, Kim worked at the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region. She holds an MBA from Fitchburg State University, a bachelor's degree from College of St. Joseph, and a Digital Marketing Fundamentals Certificate from University of Vermont. Kim is a board member for Community Capital of Vermont, a Steering Committee member of the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborate, and former President for Rutland Young Professionals. Kim lives in Williamstown with her fiancé and their three dogs.

Tino Charles Rutanhira *Board Chair*, Vermont Professionals of Color Network | Tino@vtpoc.net

P9. Please Don't Let Them Go! Attracting, Supporting and Retaining New Residents

Tino Rutanhira was born in Harare, Zimbabwe. He completed university studies in South Africa before immigrating to the United States. Tino is the Co-Founder of the Vermont Professionals of Color Network, but also works for Dealer.com and sits on various Boards representing Vermont organizations. Most importantly, Tino is a single parent of an amazing 17-year-old daughter.

Rebecca Sanborn Stone Community Workshop LLC | rebecca@communityworkshopllc.com

S2. Implementing Strategies for Equitable Community Engagement

Rebecca Sanborn Stone is a dynamic community planner and instigator, strategist, writer and speaker who is passionate about helping people create great communities. She is known for using creative and surprising techniques to engage, delight, and build collaborative and inclusive community projects. She is the author of the DIY Community Cookbook and a Principal at the Vermont-based consulting firm Community Workshop, which brings creative engagement, planning, placemaking, and effective communications to communities across North America. Rebecca lives with her family in Bethel where she is a Co-Founder of the pop-up Bethel University and frequent organizer of community-driven placemaking and community building projects.

Jessica Savage Director of Community Collaboration, VT Council on Rural Development | jessica@vtrural.org

P1. Leading Systems Change at the Regional Scale: The VT Working Communities Challenge

Jessica is the Director of Community Collaboration and joined the VCRD staff in 2021 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.

Olivia Scharnberg Student

P8. Youth Driving Change: Youth-Led Community Initiatives Around the State

Olivia Scharnberg, Montpelier, 14 will be an incoming freshman at Montpelier High School. She tries to work as a bridge between adults and students within her school district, and to speak up for students whose voices are often lost or quieter than others.

Gillian Sewake Director, Discover St. Johnsbury | director@discoverstjohnsbury.com

P9. Please Don't Let Them Go! Attracting, Supporting and Retaining New Residents

Gillian Sewake is the Director of Discover St. Johnsbury, where she serves as the Northeast Kingdom representative for Think Vermont's Connect with a Vermonter program. She is also an active 'host' with the Vermont Welcome Wagon, managed locally through the NEK Young Professionals Network. She and her husband Geoffrey recently opened Whirligig Brewing in downtown St. Johnsbury. Gillian currently resides in Peacham Village with her family.

Laura Sibilia State Representative Wilmington-Dover, Vermont State Legislature | LSibilia@leg.state.vt.us

P6. Watershed Moment: Accessing Unprecedented Funding Opportunities in Your Community

Laura Sibilia is an elected member of the Vermont House of Representatives for the Windham – Bennington district and one of five independents serving in the Vermont House. She currently serves as the Vice Chair of the House Energy and Technology Committee, on the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee for the Vermont Legislature, as Co-Chair of the Rural Caucus and a founder and Co-Chair of the Vermont National Guard and Veterans Affairs Caucus. In 2021 she was appointed by Vermont's Communications Union Districts to the Vermont Community Broadband Board.

Speakers

Katherine Sims *State Representative Orleans-Caledonia District, Vermont State Legislature* | KSims@leg.state.vt.us

P5. Implementing Local and Regional Housing Solutions

Katherine Sims was elected to the Vermont House of Representative in 2020 and is a nonprofit fundraising consultant working with small and mid-sized nonprofits to hone their systems and grow their impact. Katherine's involvement in communities and nonprofits is deep. In 2007, she founded nonprofit Green Mountain Farm-to-School to advocate for childhood nutrition and farm viability and served as its Director for ten years. From 2017-21, she led the Northeast Kingdom Collaborative, which drives economic and community development by identifying priorities across sectors and taking action. Katherine currently serves as a board member of the Vermont Land Trust, Northeast Kingdom Community Broadband, and Emerge Vermont. Katherine is a graduate of Yale University and lives in Craftsbury with her husband, Jeff Fellingner, and their two young sons. In her 'spare' time, Katherine is an avid gardener and enjoys knitting by the fire in the winter when she's not out skiing.

Misty Sinsigalli *Area Director, USDA Rural Development* | misty.sinsigalli@vt.usda.gov

N3. BYOI (Bring Your Own Ideas): Connecting with Peers and Resource Leaders

As Area Director, Misty works across all Rural Development program areas for the New Hampshire and Vermont jurisdiction. She lives the mission of increasing economic prosperity and improving the quality of life for the communities of the two State region through utilizing a broad array of USDA RD's 40 loan and grant programs. Prior to her current role at USDA, Misty worked as the Lead Specialist for Community Programs in Vermont and New Hampshire. Misty is a graduate of Champlain College and the University of Connecticut, where she earned her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice and her master's degree in Public Administration. She has worked for the Federal Government for over fifteen years. She was with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for 8 years before coming to Rural Development. She is thankful she gets to work in a job she loves in a jurisdiction she has always called home. She lives in Fairlee, VT and has two children age 10 (Sophia) and 6 (PJ). She loves being outdoors with her children - no matter the season. Nature is the best playground for both adults and children.

Nic Stark *Goal Champion, Poultney Rebranding Effort* | hello@nicstark.com

Community Spark Stories

Nic Stark is a French-American multi-disciplinary designer. He moved to Poultney after visiting the family camp on Lake St. Catherine his whole life. He's recently overseen the rebranding of Slate Valley Trails and the Town of Poultney. When not working or volunteering he can be found on a bicycle or exploring with his dog Reggie. www.nicstark.com.

Dawn and Greg Tatro *Jenna's Promise* | dawn@gwtatro.com; greg@gwtatro.com

P7. Developing and Reimagining Community Gathering Spaces: Community Centers: Co-Working Spaces, Public Green Space, and More

After the death of their daughter, Dawn and Greg Tatro founded Jenna's Promise, an organization dedicated to helping those struggling with substance use disorder. They strive every day to decrease barriers to treatment and employment. They offer hope for a new beginning for many people in our community. Greg finds most joy in his social enterprises in Jenna's Promise, selling surplus goods to the community and roasting coffee with his team. Dawn finds most fulfillment from working with the residents of the Jenna's Promise recovery housing programs, and working to help those newly in recovery get on the pathway toward their long-term goals. They are also the owners of GW Tatro Construction in Jeffersonville.

Eli Toohey *Initiative Director*, Greater Barre Working Communities Challenge | etoohey@gmunityedway.org

P1. Leading Systems Change at the Regional Scale: The VT Working Communities Challenge

Eli has held several roles in Central Vermont including her work as Executive Director of Another Way, a peer-led mental health center serving individuals in Central Vermont, and Capstone Community Action doing financial coaching and economic stability work with women receiving Reach Up benefits in Central Vermont.

Paul Toth *Chief Culture Strategist*, Vital Leadership Coaching | paul@vitalleadershipcoaching.com

S1. VUCA Leadership: Leading through Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity

S8. Sustainable Leadership for the Long Term: Avoiding Burnout and Fostering Delegation and New Leadership

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.

Don Turner *Town Manager*, Town of Milton | dturner@miltonvt.gov

P5. Implementing Local and Regional Housing Solutions

Don is the Town Manager of Milton and also a real estate broker, developer, and owner of rental properties. He's an active member of the Milton Fire Dept, serves as Milton Forest Fire Warden, and sits on the boards of the Vermont Federal Credit Union Supervisory and the Vermont Natural Resources Council. He was a past member of rescue department and was Milton Fire/Rescue Chief from 2004-18. From 2006-18, he was a member of the Vermont House of Representatives and was House Minority Leader from 2011-18. Don was educated in the Milton Town School District and at Champlain College in Burlington. Don, a lifelong resident of Milton, lives there with his wife and 3 daughters.

Dora Urujeni *Case Manager*, Community Asylum Seekers Project | nkurunziza18@gmail.com

P9. Please Don't Let Them Go! Attracting, Supporting and Retaining New Residents

Dora Urujeni is a former Member of Parliament in Rwanda with a master's degree in Peace Building and Conflict Transformation from the School of International Training and a bachelor's degree and graduate diploma in Educational Psychology from the University of Rwanda. Here in the United States, she has worked as a director, coordinator and interpreter for groups at a number of colleges, including Smith College, Johns Hopkins University and the School for International Training. In addition, as a volunteer, she has coordinated activities for the Greater Falls Community Justice Center in Bellows Falls.

Jeannine Valcour *Grant Proposal Developer*, University of Vermont Gund Institute | Jeannine.Valcour@uvm.edu

P6. Watershed Moment: Accessing Unprecedented Funding Opportunities in Your Community

Jeannine Valcour is Proposal Developer on the Research Development team in UVM's Office of the Vice President for Research. She previously served for five years as the Research Coordinator

Speakers

for the Gund Institute for Environment and for seven years as Knowledge Manager and Program Developer for the Institute for Sustainable Communities in Montpelier. She has over 20 years of experience developing, managing, and evaluating programs and institutes, and fundraising. In her current position, Ms. Valcour specializes in developing large, interdisciplinary, federal proposals focused on topics of sustainability and the environment. She holds a master's degree in Latin American Studies and an MBA from the University of Arizona and is currently a student in UVM's Sustainable Development Policy, Economics, and Governance doctoral program.

Weiwei Wang *Co-Founder and Director of Operations & Development, Vermont Professionals of Color Network* | weiwei@vtpoc.net

Affinity Space

P6. Watershed Moment: Accessing Unprecedented Funding Opportunities in Your Community

Weiwei Wang is a Co-Founder and the Director of Operations and Development of the Vermont Professionals of Color Network (VT PoC). Founded in 2019, VT PoC is dedicated to advancing the prosperity of all professionals of color throughout Vermont by “building from within.” Previously, she worked at the University of Vermont's Center for Rural Studies managing and conducting research on multi-state USDA funded projects focused on food access, as well as in Boston and Shanghai as a project manager for companies ranging from regional to international in scale. In both her personal and professional life, Weiwei brings a passion for community connection and development, and redefining accessibility for historically excluded communities, through changing systems of oppression. Learn more about her work at www.vtpoc.net or [@vtpoc_network](https://twitter.com/vtpoc_network) on social media.

Sarah Waring *State Director, USDA Rural Development* | sarah.waring@usda.gov

F5. Lessons Learned in COVID Response and Recovery: Where do we go from here?

Sarah Waring is the State Director for USDA Rural Development for the two states of Vermont and New Hampshire. She most recently worked as Vice President for Grants and Community Investments at the Vermont Community Foundation. Previously, she worked at the Vermont Council on Rural Development, Farm and Wilderness Foundation, and the Sonoran Institute. Waring also served as the Executive Director at the Center for an Agricultural Economy. In 2020, she served on the Governor's COVID Task Force for Economic Mitigation and Recovery where she supported the development of a toolkit for Municipal Engagement for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Waring resides in central Vermont, with her partner, two kiddos, lots of house plants, and a pet lizard.

Becca Washburn *Director of Lands Administration and Recreation, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation* | becca.washburn@vermont.gov

N3. BYOI (Bring Your Own Ideas): Connecting with Peers and Resource Leaders

Becca leads the division of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation responsible for land conservation and easement stewardship, state land survey and property ownership issues, the administration of leases, licenses and special use permits, support of state land management planning and state land recreation and community recreation programming. Becca's career in conservation includes leadership experience at state, regional, and national levels. Previously she has worked for the Land Trust Alliance, Stowe Land Trust and the Green Mountain Club in a variety of roles where she acquired direct experience in land conservation and stewardship, leadership and organizational development, program design and implementation, and strategic planning.

Marshall Webb *Carbon Drawdown Coordinator, Shelburne Farms* | mwebb@shelburnefarms.org

P2. Developing and Implementing Community-Based Climate Solutions

In 1972 Marshall Webb and his siblings started the transition of Shelburne Farms from a private estate into a non-profit environmental organization. Since then he has held many positions at the farm, the latest being Carbon Drawdown Coordinator. His goal is to maximize carbon sequestration and minimize fossil fuel use so that the carbon footprint of the farm will be negative by 2028.

Nicol Whalen *Arlington Common Ground* | nswhalen@sover.net

P4. Creative Community Place-Making: Events, Pop-ups, Design, and Access

The Arlington Common is an initiative created by the Arlington Arts Enrichment Program, a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing our community through creative exploration of the arts and wellness. Nicol has lived in Arlington for 20+ years and has been active in the community as a volunteer and member of the board of directors for Arlington Area Childcare, the Arlington School District, and the Arlington Common.

Kate Whitehead *Danville Village to Village Initiative, Danville Train Station Committee* | kwhitehead.danvillevt@gmail.com

Community Spark Stories

Kate Whitehead serves as co-chair of the Danville Train Station Committee, is a member of the Planning Commission and was the municipal lead through the Better Connections planning process in Danville. Kate earned a bachelor's degree in community health and has a background in public health and community development with a focus on healthy communities. Her experiences working on rural community projects in Vermont showed her the transformative nature of community-led development and the importance of working across sectors and disciplines to create vibrant thriving communities. The Better Connections project was a unique opportunity to bring together transportation, economic development and health and the outcome has been a catalyst for the revitalization and restoration of Danville's Historic Train Station.

Sherry Winnle *Grant Program Manager, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation* | sherry.winnie@vermont.gov

N3. BYOI (Bring Your Own Ideas): Connecting with Peers and Resource Leaders

Sherry lives in Duxbury and is active and passionate about the outdoors. She walks, runs, hikes, bikes, skis, and paddles with family & friends, and is a foodpreneur. Sherry has a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Vermont. Sherry is grant programs manager for the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation and has helped secure over \$29 million in federal and state grant funds for outdoor recreation. She has managed grants for 1,246 trail projects and over \$10 million in grants to develop local public outdoor park facilities (playgrounds, pools, picnic shelters, park cabins, pavilions, outdoor classrooms, universally accessible paths). She's met so many amazing and talented people who have become leaders through collaboration with state, federal, local agencies, organizations, schools, businesses, and volunteers to help carry out these projects.

Acknowledgements

Town Nominees

VCRD invited leadership of each Vermont city and town to nominate an established or emerging leader from their community to attend the Summit for free. We celebrate these town nominees who, like many of you, are working to improve their communities. And thanks to the towns for their nominations listed here!

Barnard: Kate Reeves
Barre: Nicolas Storellicastro
Bennington: Mike Cutler
Charlotte: Robert Bloch
Colchester: Kathi O'Reilly
Coventry: Matt Maxwell
Duxbury: Maureen Harvey
East Montpelier: Carl Etnier
Essex: Adriane Martin
Fair Haven: Judy Sutherland
Fairfield: Cathy Ainsworth
Greensboro: Dan Predpall
Groton: Michael Gaiss
Halifax: Tristan Roberts
Hardwick: Tracy Martin
Hartford: Dana Clawson
Hartland: Brian Stroffolino
Holland: Karla Braunesreither
Ludlow: Carol Lighthall
Marshfield: Pam Quinn

Milton: Amber Baker
Norwich: Rod Francis
Pittsfield: Betty Warner
Pittsford: Alicia Malay
Proctor: Michael Ramsey
Richmond: Jay Furr
Sharon: Sarah Pfeiffer
Sharon: Nicola Shipman
South Burlington: Erica Quallen
St. Johnsbury: Chad Whitehead
Stockbridge: Justine Cavacas
Thetford: David Goodrich
Vergennes: Martha DeGraaf
Vernon: Shelly Walker
Warren: Rebecca Campbell
Williston: Erin Dickinson
Wilmington: Christine Richter
Windsor: Ryan Palmer
Winooski: Zahra Mohamed

Outreach Partners

- AARP
- Addison County Development Corp
- Bennington Regional Planning Commission
- Brattleboro Development Credit Corp
- Building a Local Economy
- Burlington Community Justice Center
- Burlington Young Professionals
- Capstone Community Action
- Center for an Agricultural Economy
- Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce
- Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation
- Central Vermont Young Professionals
- Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region
- Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
- Common Good VT
- Department of Housing and Community Development
- EmpowR
- Energy Action Network
- Franklin County Industrial Corporation
- Green Mountain Economic Development
- Hunger Free Vermont
- Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce
- Lake Champlain Islands Economic Development Corporation
- Lamoille Economic Development Corporation
- Leadership Champlain
- Milton Artists Guild
- Mount Ascutney Regional Commission
- NEK Collaborative
- North Country Hospital Community Health Team
- Northeastern Vermont Development Association
- Northern Forest Center
- Northwest Regional Planning Commission
- Preservation Trust of Vermont
- Rising Stars Alumni Facebook
- Rutland Young Professionals
- Southern Vermont Young Professionals
- Springfield Regional Development Corporation
- The Root Social Justice Center
- Two Rivers - Ottauquechee Regional Commission
- UVM Center for Rural Studies
- UVM Extension 4-H Program
- VBSR/Vermont Change Makers Table
- Vermont 211
- Vermont Arts Council
- Vermont Chamber of Commerce
- Vermont Commission on Women
- Vermont Community Development Association
- Vermont Community Justice Network
- Vermont Community Loan Fund
- Vermont Creative Network
- Vermont Future Project
- Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
- Vermont Leadership Institute at the Snelling Center for Government
- Vermont League of Cities and Towns
- Vermont Mountain Bike Association
- Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative
- Vermont State Colleges
- Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
- Vermont Youth Conservation Corps
- Vital Communities
- WCC Teams
- Windham Regional Planning Commission
- Women's Business Ownership Network

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- Front Porch Forum
- VSECU

Gold

- The Alchemist
- Efficiency Vermont
- Killington Resort
- Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- Seventh Generation
- Union Mutual of Vermont
- UVM Office of Engagement

Silver

- The Alchemist Foundation
- Ben & Jerry's
- Cabot Creamery Coop
- CCTV Productions
- National Life Group Foundation
- Preservation Trust of Vermont
- U.S. Small Business Administration
- Vermont Economic Development Authority
- Vital Leadership Coaching
- VT Digger

Vermont Council on Rural Development

The 3rd Vermont Community Leadership Summit is produced by the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD). 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.

Mission Statement

The Vermont Council on Rural Development helps Vermont citizens build prosperous and resilient communities through democratic engagement, marshalling resources, and collective action.

Our Vision for Vermont

VCRD works toward a future for Vermont in which its:

- ▶ **communities** are healthy and resilient;
- ▶ **economy** is innovative and vibrant;
- ▶ **citizens** are engaged in community-building and governance, working closely with their neighbors;
- ▶ **communities** attract youth, entrepreneurs, and healthy diversity;
- ▶ **young citizens** are fully prepared to contribute to their communities and participate successfully in a changing economy;
- ▶ **rural character and open lands** are conserved and managed productively and profitably;
- ▶ **communities, businesses and citizens** prosper by designing and building economic solutions to climate change; and
- ▶ **communities** serve as a models for other communities throughout rural America.

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Vermont Council on Rural Development

Unleashing the power of Vermonters to create a better future

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