"Making It Happen"

Local Leadership for the Future of Vermont Communities

October 1st 2018 | Castleton University

Join local leaders working to improve life in their communities at the Vermont Community Leadership Summit. The Summit aims to support, encourage, inspire and train leaders with the skills they need to succeed. Participants will learn new skills, address key community issue areas, hear community success stories, and frame new ways Vermont can systematically support community progress.

Summit findings will contribute to a strategic planning process that works to advance opportunities, training, and partnerships to meet the needs of all kinds of leaders; expand leadership engagement in communities; and advance public policies and programs to support the long-term future of community leadership and all it means to the strength of our democracy and vitality of our Vermont communities.

In democracy, all citizens are called upon to lead – where leaders step up, towns achieve great things. **Local Citizens Make It Happen!**

Agenda

8:00 – 9:00 *Registration* | **Coffee, and Muffins** .....Fine Arts Center, Casella Theater

9:00

Conference Welcome

- **Megan Camp,** *VCRD Board Chair*
- **Karen Scolforo,** *President*, Castleton University
- **Governor Phil Scott**

Introduction: Vermont Communities "Making It Happen" Agenda for the Day

Paul Costello, *VCRD Executive Director*

9:30

Opening Panel: The Future of Vermont Leadership

Assets, Challenges, and Vision

MODERATOR: Paul Costello, *Vermont Council on Rural Development*

PANELISTS: Tiffany Bluemle, *Change the Story VT* | Hal Colston, *StoryTruths, LLC* | Thomas Hark, *CCC US* | Mitzi Johnson, *Speaker of the VT House of Representatives* | Dan Smith, *Vermont Community Foundation*

10:30 *Break* | **Leadership Fair** .....Fine Arts Center, Casella Theater

Breaks will feature tables presenting resources and opportunities from key leadership programs and associations in Vermont.

11:00 **Breakout Sessions** ..... Breakout Rooms

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

Group Dialogues: *Engaging participants to share their stories, consider needs of all VT communities, challenges, and opportunities, and describe potential actions to promote progress.*

Driving Community Projects Forward: *Describing how projects were identified and advanced, sharing tips and techniques from community leaders in towns throughout Vermont.*

Community Success Stories: *Describing how Vermont towns have engaged local leadership, connected to key resources, and took action to revitalize and strengthen their community.*

W1 Agenda Building and Meeting Management
Mary Peabody, *UVM Extension*

W2 Inclusive and Empowered Community Engagement
Susan Clark, *Slow Democracy*

W3 The Art of Public Conversation
Susan McCormack, *Creative Discourse*

D1 Youth Driving Change
Liz Subin, *Essex Westford School District* | Jamaal Hankey, *Essex High School*

D2 Fostering New Leaders in Your Community
Liz Gamache, *Former Mayor of St. Albans*

P1 Creating Events and Building Community Connection
MODERATOR: Gary Holloway, *VT Department of Housing and Community Development*
PANELISTS: Jody Fried, *Catamount Arts* | Robert McBride, *Rockingham Arts and Museum Project* | Bill Moore, *Town of Brandon* | Orly Munzing, *Strolling of the Heifers*

P2 Advancing Energy Action and the Climate Economy
MODERATOR: Jon Copans, *Vermont Council on Rural Development*
PANELISTS: Shannon Barsotti, *Empower Pownal Chair* | Sarah Brock, Vital Communities | Duncan McDougall, *Waterbury LEAP (Local Energy Action Partnership)* | Kate Stephenson, *Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee*

S1 RUTLAND: Progress towards downtown and business development, fostering engagement and community connections, reinvigorating the Rutland brand and image, and addressing substance abuse challenges
MODERATOR: Steve Costello, *Green Mountain Power*
PANELISTS: Mary Cohen, *Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce* | Gwen Flewelling, *Rutland Young Professionals* | Mark Foley, *MKF Partners* | Joe Kraus, *Project Vision*

S2 VERNON: Framing and new Vernon Village Center, bringing together a community under pressure, and advancing a new economy
MODERATOR: Ted Brady, *VT Agency of Commerce & Community Development*
PANELISTS: Martin Langeveld, *Friends of Vernon Center* | Art Miller, *Vernon Community Visit Chair* | Patty O'Donnell, *Vernon Planning and Economic Development Commission* | Bob Spencer, *Vernon Planning and Economic Development Commission*

12:00 – 1:00 *LUNCH* ..... Glenbrook Gymnasium

VCRD Community Leadership and Lifetime Achievement Award Presentations
Presented by VCRD Board Members
"Leadership With Compassion" Hal Colston, *Partnership for Change VT*

1:15 **Breakout Sessions** ..... Breakout Rooms

W4 Telling Your Story: Media and Communications
Mark Johnson, *VT Digger*

W5 Recruiting, and Managing Volunteers
Sue Minter, *VT Special Olympics*

W6 Running for Public Office
Deb Markowitz, *Gund Institute for the Environment*

D3 Advancing Women in Leadership
Cary Brown, *Vermont Commission on Women*

D4 Organizing for Young Professionals
Sarah Lang, BDCC - *Southern Vermont Young Professionals*

P3 Engaging the Public in K-12 Education
MODERATOR: Susan McCormack, *Creative Discourse*
PANELISTS: John Castle, *North Country Supervisory Union* | Jamaal Hankey, *Essex High School* | Aidan Lodge, *Peoples Academy* | Liz Subin, *Essex Westford School District* | Lindsey Yablonowski, *Peoples Academy*

P4 Strengthening Agriculture and Food Systems
MODERATOR: Anson Tebbetts, *Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, & Markets*
PANELISTS: Marie Audet, *Blue Spruce Farm* | Richard Berkfield, *Food Connects* | Tom Stearns, *High Mowing Organic Seeds* | Sarah Waring, *Center for an Agricultural Economy*

P5 The Wisdom to Know Difference: Increasing Diversity and Equity in Community Leadership
MODERATOR: Kesha Ram, *Vermont Community Foundation*
PANELISTS: Ali Dieng, *Burlington City Council* | Brent Reader, *Mississquoi Abenaki Tribal Council* | Lisa Ryan, *Rutland City Board of Aldermen*

S3 BRIGHTON: Reinvigorating the town through recreation, events, and celebrations and structuring ways to boost local businesses and attract visitors
MODERATOR: Jenna Koloski, VCRD
PANELISTS: Joel Cope, *Brighton Town Administrator* | Jeanne Gervais, *Island Pond Chamber of Commerce* | Doug Niles, *Brighton Recreation Director* | Mike Strait, *Brighton Selectboard Chair*

S4 BETHEL: Bridging divides, addressing community needs, and breathing new life and vibrancy into the village center
MODERATOR: Rebecca Sanborn-Stone, *Bethel Revitalization Initiative and Community Workshop LLC*
PANELISTS: Lindley Brainard, *Arnold Block Co-Owner and Bethel Selectboard* | Lylee Rauch Kacenski, *Arnold Block Co-Owner* | Kirk White, *Bethel Revitalization Initiative*

2:15 **Breakout Sessions** ..... Breakout Rooms

W7 Fundraising for Community Projects
Andy Robinson, *Consultant*

W8 Setting Goals and Tracking Success
Kate McGowan, *Marlboro Graduate School, Center for New Leadership*

W9 Community Placemaking
Rebecca Sanborn Stone, *Community Workshop LLC*

D5 Expanding Diversity and Inclusion
Hal Colston, *StoryTruths, LLC* and Susan McCormack, *Creative Discourse*

D6 Advancing Municipal and School Leadership
Jim Condos, *Vermont Secretary of State*

P6 Revitalizing Buildings and Downtowns
MODERATOR: Katie Buckley, *VT Department of Housing and Community Development*
PANELISTS: Sara Coffey, *Broad Brook Community Center, Guildford* | Joe Kasprzak, *St. Johnsbury Assistant Town Manager* | Tom Lauzon, *Former Mayor of Barre* | Monique Priestley, *Bradford "The Space on Main"* | Bob Stevens, *Stevens and Associates, Brooks House Redevelopment*

P7 Advancing Outdoor Recreation and Trails
MODERATOR: Michael Snyder, *VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation*
PANELISTS: Steve Crihfield, *Ascutney Outdoors* | Zac Freeman, *RASTA VT* | Abigail Long, *Kingdom Trails*

P8 Youth Driving Change: Stories of Leadership and Success
MODERATOR: Helen Beattie, *Up For Learning*
PANELISTS: Milo Cress, *Be Straw Free Campaign* | Lili Platt, *Harwood Union International Refugee Club* | Faith Ploof, *TRY for the Environment*

S5 ST. ALBANS: The City's path to downtown redevelopment, economic revitalization, and community vibrancy
MODERATOR: Tim Smith, *Mayor/FCIC*
PANELISTS: Dom Cloud, *St Albans City Manager* | Tom Gallagher, *People's Trust Company* | Liz Gamache, *Former Mayor* | Andrea Gagner, *14th Star Brewing Company*

S6 CRAFTSBURY: Fostering school and community partnership, building engagement and connection, addressing childcare needs, and improving high speed fiber access
MODERATOR: Ben Doyle, *USDA RD*
PANELISTS: Kris Coville, *Craftsbury School and Community Partnership and Farmers Market* | Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, *WonderArts* | Melissa Jacobs, *Craftsbury Saplings* | Dave Stoner, *Craftsbury Fiber Access Initiative*

S7 WINOOSKI: Bringing new vibrancy to the City by fostering business growth and development, and creating multi-cultural connections and engagement
MODERATOR: Seth Leonard, *Winooski Mayor*
PANELISTS: Jessie Baker, *Winooski City Manager* | Eric Covey, *Winooski City Council* | Harka Khadka, *Winooski Planning Commission* | Sister Pat McKittrick, *Winooski Peace Initiative* | Ali Nagle, *Monkey House and Waking Windows*

3:15 *Break* | Leadership Fair ..... Fine Arts Center, Casella Theater

3:30 **Summit Deliberation: "The Future of Community Leadership!"** ..... Breakout Rooms
Groups evaluate "What should be done today to support, encourage, and inspire active and equitable community leadership throughout the state?"
FACILITATORS: Patricia Coates, *Vermont State Colleges* | Lauren-Glenn Davitian, *Center for Media and Democracy; Common Good VT* | Jared Duval, *Energy Action Network* | Jen Kimmich, *Alchemist Brewery* | Johanna Miller, *Vermont Natural Resources Council* | Katherine Sims, *NEK Collaborative* | Mark Snelling, *Snelling Center for Government* | Ross Sneyd, *National Life Group*

4:30 **Plenary Conclusions and Action** | Each group shares two priorities for action
Paul Costello summarizes next steps | Ted Brady wrap-up and inspiration

5:15 *Reception with Cash Bar* ..... Fine Arts Center, Casella Theater

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Vermont Council on Rural Development
Unleashing the power of Vermonters to create a better future