



"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 MuffinsFine Arts Center, Casella Theater

9:00 **Conference Welcome**

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

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

10:30 *Break* | Leadership FairFine 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 Stores: *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

Youth Facilitator

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: Robert McBride, *Rockingham Arts and Museum Project* | Jody Fried, *Catamount Arts* | Orly Munzing, *Strolling of the Heifers* | Bill Moore, *Town of Brandon*

P2 Advancing Energy Action and the Climate Economy

MODERATOR: Jon Copans, *Vermont Council on Rural Development*

PANELISTS: Kate Stephenson, *Montpelier Energy Action Committee* | Duncan McDougal, *Waterbury Energy Committee* | Shannon Barsotti, *Empower Pownal Chair*

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: Joe Kraus, *Project Vision* | Gwen Flewelling, *Rutland Young Professionals* | Mary Cohen, *Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce* | Mark Foley, *MKF Partners*

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: Art Miller, *Vernon Community Visit Chair* | Martin Langeveld, *Friends of Vernon Center* | Patty O'Donnell, *Vernon Planning and Economic Development Commission* | Bob Spencer, *Vernon Planning and Economic Development Commission*

12:00 – 1:00

LUNCH Glenbrook Gymnasium

W4 Telling Your Story: Media and Communications

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

Tiffany Bleumle, *Change the Story VT*

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* | Liz Subin, *Essex Westford School District* | Jamaal Hankey, *Essex High School Student Body President* |

P4 Strengthening Agriculture and Food Systems

MODERATOR: Chuck Ross, *UVM Extension*

PANELISTS: Andy Kehler, *Jasper Hill Farm* | Sarah Waring, *Center for an Agricultural Economy* | Marie Audet, *Blue Spruce Farm* | Richard Berkfield, *Food Connects*

P5 The Wisdom to Know Difference: Increasing Diversity and Equity in Community Leadership

MODERATOR: Kesha Ram

PANELISTS: Lisa Ryan, *Rutland City Council* | Ali Dieng, *Burlington City Council*

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: Doug Niles, *Recreation Director* | Mike Strait, *Selectboard Chair* | Joel Cope, *Town Administrator* | Jeanne Gervais, *Island Pond Chamber of Commerce*

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: Lylee Rauch Kacenski, *Arnold Block Co-Owner* | Kirk White, *Bethel Revitalization Initiative* | Lindley Brainard, *Arnold Block Co-Owner and Bethel Selectboard*

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, *Partnership for Change VT*

D6 Advancing Municipal and School Leadership

P6 Revitalizing Buildings and Downtowns

MODERATOR: Katie Buckley, VT Department of Housing and Community Development

PANELISTS: Tom Lauzon, *Former Mayor of Barre* | Bob Stevens, *Brattleboro - Stevens and Associates* | Monique Priestley, *Bradford "The Space on Main"* | Sara Coffey, *Guilford* | Joe Kasperzak, *Town of St. Johnsbury*

P7 Advancing Outdoor Recreation and Trails

MODERATOR: Michael Snyder, *VT Dept of Forests Parks and Recreation*

PANELISTS: Zac Freeman, *RASTA VT* | Abigail Long, *Kingdom Trails* | Steve Carihfield, *Ascutney Outdoors*

P8 Youth Driving Change: Stories of Leadership and Success

MODERATOR: Helen Beattie, *Up For Learning*

PANELISTS: Milo Cress, *Be Straw Free Campaign*

S5 ST. ALBANS: The City's path to downtown redevelopment, economic revitalization, and community vibrancy

MODERATOR: Tim Smith, *Mayor/FCIC*

PANELISTS: Dom Cloud, *City Manager* | Liz Gamache, *Former Mayor* | Andrea Gonyea, *14th Star Brewing* | Tom Gallagher, *People's Trust*

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: Emily Maclure, *Craftsbury General Store* | Eloise Girard, *Craftsbury Saplings* | Dave Stoner, *Craftsbury Fiber Access Initiative* | Kris Coville, *Craftsbury School and Community Partnership and Farmers Market*

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: Eric Covey, *City Council* | Jesse Baker, *City Manager* | Harka Khadka, *Planning Commission* | Sister Pat McKittrick, *Winooski Peace Initiative*

3:15 *Break* | Leadership FairFine Arts Center, Casella Theater

3:30 **Summit Deliberation: "The Future of Community Leadership!"**
Eight Group discussions evaluate the question: What should be done today to support, encourage, and inspire active and equitable community leadership throughout the state?

4:30 **Plenary Conclusions and Action** | Each group shares two priorities for action
Paul Costello summarizes next steps

5:00 *Adjourn*

5:00 **Reception with Cash Bar**Fine Arts Center, Casella Theater

5:45

VCRD Community Leadership and Lifetime Achievement Award Presentations

Presented by VCRD Board Members

6:00

Keynote Speaker

Produced by Vermont Council on Rural Development

info@vtrural.org | www.vtrural.org



Vermont Council on Rural Development

Unleashing the power of Vermonters to create a better future