

# 2022

## VERMONT COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

AUGUST 10, 2022 | VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE | RANDOLPH, VT

### Agenda

8:00 – 9:00 *Registration | Coffee and Pastries..... Judd Hall*

9:00 **Conference Opening**

**Parwinder Grewal**, *President*, Vermont State University

**Julie Moore**, *Chair*, Vermont Council on Rural Development Board of Directors

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

**Plenary Performance**

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

9:30 **Community Spark Stories: 5 Minute Stories of Inspiration**

HOST: Aly Richards, *Lets Grow Kids*

PRESENTERS: Rich Holschuh, *Atowi Project* | Thato Ratsebe, *AALV* | Nic Stark, *Poultney Rebranding Effort* | Kate Whitehead, *Danville Train Station Committee*

10:00 **Presentation of VCRD Leadership and Lifetime Achievement Awards**

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

10:45 **Breakout Sessions..... Breakout Rooms**

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

Action Forums (F): *Participants will discuss what we should accomplish for the future of Vermont communities and leadership and how we work together to realize our vision.*

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

Networking Sessions (N): *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**  
PRESENTER/FACILITATOR: Liz Dallas & Paul Toth, *Vital Leadership Coaching*  
Come and get reacquainted with the principles of VUCA. Then, learn a framework that disciplines thinking for a pragmatic approach to leading through all four of these aspects with confidence. Based on the latest cognitive research, the A2B Paradigm Shifter equips leaders for inspiring and empowering others to make transformational change in a VUCA rampant world.
- S2. Implementing Strategies for Equitable Community Engagement**  
PRESENTER/FACILITATOR: Rebecca Sanborn Stone, *Community Workshop LLC*  
It's more important than ever for communities to find equitable, inclusive ways to engage people. And it's harder than ever to reach people and gain participation. It's time for communities and leaders to rethink old engagement strategies and add some new tools to the toolbox. From pop-up events to digital platforms, deep dialogue to quick chats, this workshop will share a range of simple tips and creative ideas for engaging a broader cross-section of the community and ensuring equitable opportunities for people to participate in community projects.
- S3. Raising Money: Fundraising for Community Projects**  
PRESENTER/FACILITATOR: Maeve McBride, *CPG Enterprises*  
An overview of tools, tips, and best practices for fundraising for community-based projects.
- F1. Demographic Change in Vermont: Creating Dialogue, Engagement, and Support**  
FACILITATOR: Xusana Davis, *Vermont Office of Racial Equity*  
Vermont's population is changing, and we should talk about it! Xusana Davis, the State of Vermont's Executive Director of Racial Equity will facilitate a forum discussion based on demographic data and how community leaders can learn, grow and change...just like Vermont!
- P1. Leading Systems Change at the Regional Scale: The VT Working Communities Challenge**  
MODERATOR: Jessica Savage, *Vermont Council on Rural Development*  
PANELISTS: Alex Beck, *Southern Vermont Working Communities Challenge* | Sarah Danly, *White River Valley Consortium* | Eli Toohey, *Greater Barre Working Communities Challenge* | Stephen Michon, *Federal Reserve Bank of Boston*  
The VT Working Communities Challenge: what is it and why are 62% of Vermont towns part of it? Learn about the Vermont approach to cross-sector leadership addressing complex, interrelated issues facing our workforce.
- P2. Developing and Implementing Community-Based Climate Solutions**  
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 Ottauquechee Regional Commission* | Marshall Webb, *Shelburne Farms*  
Our climate solutions are as varied as each community and can drive economic opportunities. Join this panel exploring various frameworks from regional approaches to community scale volunteer driven initiatives.
- P3. The Creative Economy in Your Community: Integrating Arts, Humanities, and Economy**  
MODERATOR: Johanna de Graffenreid, *Vermont Creative Network*  
PANELISTS: Carrie Caouette-DeLallo, *Chelsea Arts Collaborative* | Meg Hammond, *Generator* | Keith Marks, *Next Stage Arts*  
Across Vermont, communities are turning to the arts and humanities to build community connection, engagement, and boost their economy. Hear tips, strategies, and reflections from creative economy leaders from across the state on the connection between the arts, civic engagement, and the future vitality of the economy.

## N1. Community Leadership and Engagement Speed Networking

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

Engage with fellow participants in fast paced interaction for a series of one-on-one conversations within an organized structure as a way to build an individual statewide network of leaders. Be sure to bring extra copies of your business card for this workshop!

12:00 – 1:00 **LUNCH**..... Judd Hall

1:00 – 2:15 **Breakout Sessions**..... Breakout Rooms

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

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

Polarities are seeming opposites that must actually coexist over time, for successful outcomes. And Vermont is full of them. In this interactive workshop, learn to recognize when a polarity is at the root of conflict, and how "both/and" thinking can improve understanding and lead to transformation.

### S6. Effective Community Communications and Story-Telling

PRESENTER: Becky Holt, *Vermont Story Lab*

Stories are a powerful tool to help people connect with each other, develop understanding, share information, advocate for change, or spur people to act. In this skills-building workshop, learn the basics of storytelling for communications: what it looks like, why it is valuable, and how it can promote better connections with and within your community.

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

FACILITATOR: Paul Costello, *Independent Consultant & Facilitator*

A forum conversation on successes and challenges around civic engagement and community connection and strategies to build connection, unity, and engagement for the future.

### F3. Inviting and Engaging New Leadership

FACILITATOR: Jenna Koloski, *Vermont Council on Rural Development*

A forum conversation on successes and challenges in inviting new leadership and strategies to engage the next generation of community leaders.

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

MODERATOR: Devon Neary, *Rutland Regional Planning Commission*

PANELISTS: Cindy Delano, *Barton Giving Garden* | Jordyn Fitch (they/them), *CATV* | King McMillan, *Fight For Kids Foundation Inc.* | Nicol Whalen, *Arlington Common Ground*

A panel of community leaders will share stories of place-making initiatives and events that have helped to boost community connection, wellness, access, and fun in their communities.

### P5. Implementing Local and Regional Housing Solutions

MODERATOR: Maura Collins, *Vermont Housing Finance Agency*

PANELISTS: Michelle Caver, *VFW Post 782* | Emily Rosenbaum, *Lamoille County Working Communities Challenge* | Katherine Sims, *Vermont State Legislature* | Don Turner, *Town of Milton*  
Creative Local, Regional, and Statewide Efforts to Create More Housing Options in Vermont.

**P6. Watershed Moment: Accessing Unprecedented 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* | Luke McGowan, *White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs* | Laura Sibilila, *Vermont State Legislature* | Janine Valcour, *University of Vermont Gund Institute* | Weiwei Wang, *Vermont Professionals of Color*

Local and State Leaders Share Different Approaches to Accessing and Using New Funding Opportunities.

**N2. World Café: Challenges and Opportunities for Vermont Community Leaders**

SESSION LEADER: Alyssa Johnson, *Vermont Council on Rural Development*

A series of informal conversations about challenges and opportunities for local leaders and community volunteers today. Participants will move between different topic tables based on interest.

2:15 **Break**..... Judd Hall

2:30 - 3:45 **Breakout Sessions**..... Breakout Rooms

**S7. Having Necessary Community Conversations: Racism in Vermont**

PRESENTER: Rae Carter, & Saudia Lamont, *EmpowR*

Community leaders will gain an understanding about how to approach and sustain conversations about racism and white supremacy cultural norms. Experiences, resources, and practices will be shared for community leaders to explore and pursue in their process to enable necessary community conversations about racism in Vermont.

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

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

Come and learn a framework for leading in a way that cares for humanity and feeds our souls. Learn the formula for drawing stakeholders’ attention to what moves people to make a shift of perspective, to be compelled to action. And practice a coach approach to developing leaders at all levels and corners of community.

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

FACILITATOR: Ted Brady, *Vermont League of Cities & Towns*

A forum conversation discussing successes, challenges, and strategies to best connect and coordinate municipal leadership and community volunteers.

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

FACILITATOR: Sarah Waring, *USDA Rural Development*

A forum conversation on how we can proactively identify and apply some of the lessons learned the past two years.

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

MODERATOR: Belan Antensaye, *City of Burlington Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Department*

PANELISTS: Mark Hughes, *Vermont Racial Justice Alliance* | Danny Lang, *REclaimED* |

Baird Morgan, *Pittsford Village Farm* | Dawn & Greg Tatro, *Jenna’s Promise*

Community leaders share creative local projects bringing community together in new ways.

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

MODERATOR: Lindsey Halman, *Up For Learning*

PANELISTS: Adrianna Corbett, *Montpelier* | Maisie Franke, *Duxbury* | Ana Lindert-Boyes, *Plainfield* | Auishma Pradhan, *South Burlington* | Olivia Scharnberg, *Montpelier*

The past two years have amplified the need for youth and adults working together in their communities to create systemic change. This session will be facilitated and led by youth from across VT on their experience and perspectives on driving change in their communities.

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

MODERATOR: Tino Charles Rutanhira, *Vermont Professionals of Color*

PANELISTS: Sara Defilippi, *Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing* | Seth Leonard, *Vermont Housing Finance Agency* | Dora Urujeni, *Community Asylum Seekers Project* | Curtis Reed, *Vermont Partnership for Fairness & Diversity* | Gillian Sewake, *Discover St. Johnsbury*

Learn how state and local leaders are attracting and supporting new residents. With many people considering Vermont as a possible long-term home for many reasons, while still others might not see Vermont as a place to put down roots, towns and leaders can learn about resources and lessons learned from a variety of perspectives from around the state.

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

SESSION LEADER: Jenna Koloski, *Vermont Council on Rural Development*

RESOURCE LEADERS: Jessica Brodie, *Vermont Recreation & Parks Association* | Julia Connell, *Agency of Commerce & Community Development* | Jamison Lerner, *Johnson Family Foundation* | Kate McCarthy, *Vermont Community Foundation* | Jon Michael Muise, *USDA Rural Development* | Monique Priestley, *Vermont Leadership Institute* | Misty Sinsigalli, *USDA Rural Development* | Becca Washburn, *Vermont Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation* | Sherry Winnie, *Vermont Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation*

A networking opportunity to share your community project/initiative/idea with peers and resource providers and ask for advice, resources, and strategies to move your idea forward.

**4:00 Conclusions and Action** ..... Judd Hall  
Brian Lowe, *Vermont Council on Rural Development*

**4:15 Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Party!** ..... Judd Hall