

PETER SHUMLIN  
Governor



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 11, 2012

Dear Partners,

I am writing in hope you will participate in a Governor's Workshop designed to assist my Administration in the development of key policy ideas and action steps to ensure that all Vermont children graduate from high school prepared for post-secondary education, career success and active lives as contributing citizens. This workshop is especially timely given state level governance changes enacted by the recent General Assembly.

The event will be facilitated by the Vermont Council on Rural Development, sponsored by the Vermont Community Foundation, and hosted by the Windham Foundation at the Grafton Inn. It will begin at 5:00 PM on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of June and conclude at 4:30 PM on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Please see the attached agenda and invitation list.

The workshop will allow participants the opportunity to both have an open dialogue about fundamental questions on the appropriate direction of education in a rapidly changing world and to create a comprehensive strategy to ensure that all Vermont children graduate from high school prepared for post-secondary education, career success and active lives as contributing citizens. It is my expectation the workshop will culminate with a concrete list of the most important steps needed to realize this goal. Your attendance for both days is critically important to the success of this process and I encourage you to commit to the full event.

To register for the Workshop go to: <http://vtrural.org/workshop>. If you have special needs or questions on the logistics for the retreat, contact Margaret Gibson McCoy at [info@vtrural.org](mailto:info@vtrural.org) or 802-223-6091. Call Paul Costello at 802-223-5763 with questions on the content or agenda for the sessions.

We look forward to your participation and to working with you to advance Vermont's leadership in the renewal of public education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Shumlin  
Governor

# **“Success for All Vermont Students”**

## **Governor Shumlin’s Workshop on Education**

**The Grafton Inn, Grafton**

**June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 2012**

The Governor’s Workshop on Education is intended to allow the Administration to explore key policy ideas to improve Vermont’s Pre K-12 education system, to develop a comprehensive and coordinated education platform, and to define specific action steps to be implemented over the next two years to advance the progress of public education in Vermont.

*The Workshop will center on creating a concrete list of the most important steps we will take, as a State, to ensure that all Vermont children graduate from high school prepared for post-secondary education, career success and active lives as contributing citizens.*

What policies and comprehensive strategies should be advanced to ensure success for every student?

How do we build common ownership of our vision of success for all students and common direction that includes local leadership, education system leaders, interest and stakeholder groups, and public policy partners?

What concrete strategies and action steps should be implemented over the next two years to advance our educational priorities?

Are there ways to improve the productivity of our schools and stretch our dollars further to support student success?

The retreat is hosted by co-sponsor, the Windham Foundation, supported by co-sponsor the Vermont Community Foundation, and produced by the Vermont Council on Rural Development.

# A G E N D A

## Day One ~ Tuesday, June 12

<b>Retreat Commences</b> .....	<b>5:00</b>
Social Hour	
<b>Welcome</b> .....	<b>5:50</b>
Chief of Staff, Bill Lofy	
<b>Dinner</b> .....	<b>6:00</b>
<b>“Points of Vision toward ‘Success for all Vermont Students’”</b> .....	<b>7:00</b>
Secretary of Administration, Jeb Spaulding	
<b>“A Vision of Personalization &amp; Innovation in Education”</b> .....	<b>7:15</b>
A Challenge Statement by Dan French, BRSU Superintendent	
<b>Roundtable on Vision &amp; Goals for Vermont Education Policy</b> .....	<b>7:45</b>
Moderated by Paul Costello	
a) <b>What do we mean by the idea of “Success for all Vermont Students?”</b> ....	<b>7:45</b>
b) <b>Building a list of <u>Points of Vision</u> for the next 10 years</b> .....	<b>8:05</b>
c) <b>Building a working list of core <u>Goals for Vermont Education Policy</u></b> .....	<b>8:30</b>
<b>Adjourn for Private Discussion</b> .....	<b>9:00</b>

## Day Two ~ Wednesday, June 13

<b>Breakfast</b> .....	<b>7:30</b>
<b>Introductions &amp; Review of Framework of the Day</b> .....	<b>8:30</b>
Paul Costello	
<b>Opening Remarks</b> .....	<b>8:40</b>
Bill Lofy	
<b>A. Panel on “Success for All Vermont Students”</b> .....	<b>8:50</b>
<i>What must be done to ensure that all Vermont children graduate from high school prepared for post-secondary education or career success and active lives as contributing citizens?</i>	

Panelists pick up on key vision points and goals enumerated on June 12 and challenge assumptions, propose new ideas, share new frameworks and help everyone start the day with some common big picture questions.

**Lisa Ventriss**, Executive Director, Vermont Business Roundtable

**Thomas Hark**, President, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

**Tom Sabo**, Montpelier High School Teacher

**Armando Vilaseca**, Vermont Commissioner of Education

**Moderator: Tim Donovan**, Chancellor, Vermont State Colleges

**Break** ..... 10:00

## **B. Breakout Sessions**

- **Poverty and Achievement: Overcoming the Gap**
- **Relevance and Engagement: Place-Based Ed, Real World Learning & Youth Leadership**
- **Personalizing Learning & Digital Education**
- **Connections & Transitions to Higher Education and Workforce**

**I. Breakout Session One: Where are we now?** ..... 10:15

What are the opportunities and challenges in this issue area?

How are teachers and schools situated to address these issues today?

What are the most significant gaps in what we are doing now?

**Lunch** ..... 11:45

**Mutual Sharing of Ideas from Morning Session** ..... 12:15

Moderated by Jeff Francis

**II. Breakout Session Two: Brainstorming Action Steps** ..... 1:00

**III. Breakout Session Three: Priorities for Action** ..... 2:15

**Break** ..... 3:15

## **C. Plenary Reconvenes and Builds Conclusions**

**I. Priority Action Step Reports from Breakout Groups** ..... 3:30

**II. Reflections on Action Priorities by all Members of the Plenary** ..... 3:50

How do the key findings of this Workshop connect to program evaluation and budgetary priorities?

**Closing Remarks on Taking Actions Forward** ..... 4:25

Jeb Spaulding

**Adjourn** ..... 4:30

## Invitation List

**Bob Allen**, President, Windham Foundation  
**Susan Bartlett**, Special Assistant to the Governor  
**Patricia Coates**, State Director, Congressman Welch's Office  
**Stuart Comstock-Gay**, President, Vermont Community Foundation  
**Representative Joey Donovan**  
**Tim Donovan**, Chancellor, Vermont State Colleges  
**Phil Fiermonte**, State Director, Senator Sanders Office  
**David Finney**, President, Champlain College  
**John Fischer**, Deputy Commissioner of Transformation & Innovation, Department of Education  
**Jeff Francis**, Executive Director, Vermont Superintendent's Association  
**Dan French**, Superintendent, Bennington Rutland Supervisory Union  
**Steve Gold**, Retired State Employee  
**Eric Hadd**, Teacher, Georgia Middle School  
**Tom Hark**, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps  
**Sandy Kane**, First Grade Teacher, Enosburg Elementary School  
**Bill Lofy**, Chief of Staff  
**Alex MacLean**, Secretary of Civil & Military Affairs  
**Amy Mellencamp**, Principal, Burlington High School  
**Lawrence Miller**, Secretary of Commerce & Community Development  
**Stephan Morse**, Chair, Board of Education  
**Senator Kevin Mullin**  
**Maureen Neumann**, Chair, UVM Department of Education  
**Annie Noonan**, Commissioner of Labor  
**Representative Peter Peltz**  
**Elaine Pinckney**, Superintendent, Chittenden South Supervisory Union  
**Doug Racine**, Secretary of Human Services  
**Alyson Richards**, Governor's Office  
**Tom Sabo**, Montpelier High School Science Teacher  
**Jeb Spaulding**, Secretary of Administration  
**Bill Stenger**, President, Jay Peak Resort  
**Mark Tashjian**, Headmaster, Burr & Burton Academy  
**John Tracy**, State Director, Senator Leahy's Office  
**Lisa Ventriss**, Executive Director, Vermont Business Roundtable  
**Armando Vilaseca**, Commissioner of Education  
**David Yacovone**, Commissioner of Children & Families

### Facilitators

**Stu Comstock Gay**, Vermont Community Foundation  
**Paul Costello**, Vermont Council on Rural Development  
**Steve Gold**, Retired State Employee  
**Elaine Pinckney**, Superintendent, Chittenden South Supervisory Union

### Staff

**Paul Costello**, VCRD Executive Director  
**Margaret Gibson McCoy**, VCRD Operations and Communications Director



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