

Vermont Learning for the Future Project

OUR GOAL

By 2022, Vermont will have a model learning system where no less than 80% of youth are engaged in equitable, reciprocal learning relationships that help them become resilient global citizens committed to developing their individual capabilities and partnerships in order to create a socially and economically just and sustainable society.



STRATEGIC ACTION TEAM

Youth-Adult Partnership

GOAL

Authentic youth-adult partnerships will become essential and universal to the learning network, with a foundation in shared power and mutual respect, informed by a continual documentation of evidence.

90-DAY PROJECT

Create a profile of youth-adult partnership practices in all high schools in Vermont leading to a rich compendium of best practices to inform upcoming conference planning and subsequent networking.



Youth with Access to their Learning Potential

No less than 75% of every demographic subgroup of VT students (7-12) will indicate that they've experienced meaningful community-engaged learning in the past year that is captured in their PLP and informs their post-secondary plans.

Present 6 community-based models that demonstrate ways to bridge in-school learning experiences with meaningful community learning experiences.



Design Ecosystem

The learning ecosystem has the capacity for all learners to engage in personalized learning, self-reflection and authentic community partnerships in order to creatively respond to global and local challenges and opportunities.

Inventory and map the individuals/organizations involved in VTLFF using a network mapping process. Identify the network's strengths, opportunities for expansion, and areas in need of network weaving, and document network growth.



E-Learning, Peer-to-Peer Learning

100% of our schools and learners are connected to a common state-wide, wide-area network infrastructure to maximize e-learning and data sharing.

Support the establishment of a Wide Area Network backbone to enhance e-learning and PLP platforms.



Framing and Messaging

A critical mass of diverse, influential Vermonters will actively support an emergent, sustainable and just learning community equipped to create opportunities that solve local and global challenges.

Survey, clarify, and synthesize the goals, strategies and drivers of key leverage groups within our network. Frame a draft common message within the local and global context.

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THE PROCESS

To improve learning in Vermont, the Bay and Paul Foundations and Shelburne Farms launched a systems mapping process. Scott Spann of Innate Strategies began by interviewing 30 education leaders for their unique perspectives and visions for the educational change needed in the state. Focus groups with youth, parents, and educators then contributed their wisdom on Vermont's learning system. From the data collected, a comprehensive map was created to articulate the current system. Five themes emerged, and various analysis techniques then identified five leverage areas. At a Strategy Summit, groups coalesced around the vision and leverage areas, and formed five corresponding working groups. The groups gathered at a 90-day project launch and are now working on projects that will bring us closer to the vision.

125 learning system leaders participated in a systems mapping process to identify key levers of change to achieve a vision for education.

42 of them joined strategic action teams to carry out projects that move us towards our goal.

For More Information:

- Jen Cirillo, Shelburne Farms | 802-985-0315 | jcirillo@shelburnefarms.org
- Marissa Barbieri, Bay & Paul Foundations | marissa@bayandpaul.org

