

# Great Expectations Workshops *March 2013*

Cosponsored by the Vermont Agency of Education and Youth and Adults Transforming School Together ([yatst.com](http://yatst.com))



Hazen Union 10th graders talk about the Mindset Framework.

**E**xpectations are a subtle but central force in any relationship. In the classroom, they are one of the strongest predictors of a student's academic success (J. Hattie, 2009). This is one factor we CAN influence in our schools, honoring the potential of ALL learners and shifting the school culture to incorporate this message into day-to-day practices.

Youth are particularly effective messengers of information about expectations and how the brain learns. As peers, they can engage classmates through stories and activities which come from shared experience. In several district in-services, faculty have been particularly responsive to students' creative portrayal of how the brain learns through skits and other mediums, debunking myths and stereotypes and challenging current practices in respectful and provocative ways.

Youth-adult teams will leave this workshop with concrete tools to debunk the common myth that intelligence is fixed, and strategies to reinforce the theme, "Whether you think you can, or think you can't, you are right" (Henry Ford). They will also explore how the brain processes information (Dr. David Sousa's information processing model) in the form of a theatrical piece which can be replicated back at home. This workshop will be co-facilitated by Helen Beattie, Director of Youth and Adults Transforming Schools Together, along with a number of high school students involved in a Vermont initiative titled, "Great Expectations...or Not?"

## OBJECTIVES

By the end of this day-long workshop participant teams will be able to:

- Describe how the brain processes information
- Articulate the difference between a "fixed mindset" and a "growth mindset"
- Assess the effectiveness of specific strategies that support the message of high expectations for all students
- Develop training outline for implementation in their schools
- Implement training activities in school-based trainings



Students complete the Mindset Self-Assessment Survey.

Not only have I seen growth in the YATST students delivering the curriculum and how they interact with their peers, I have students who participated in the Great Expectations and Mindset activities come see me to discuss their mindset and how they approach what they're learning and why.

—Sally McCarthy, Hazen Director of Guidance and YATST Adult Advisor



## WHO SHOULD COME

This training is for youth-adult teams composed of high school students and teachers, guidance and SAP counselors, health educators, PBIS coordinators or other faculty focusing on school climate. It is important to note that the activities teams will learn about are appropriate for middle schools students. The recommended team composition is one to two adults and two to seven youth. This work will require a strong youth-adult partnership, sustained over the course of the spring, to be successful.

## FORMAT

This interactive day-long workshop will immerse participants in activities and instruction about brain research and the power of expectations. This workshop utilizes a training of trainers format, first modeling the materials and tools and then reflecting on their use from a facilitator's perspective. The day will conclude with team time to plan how each group will bring this training back to students and teachers in their own schools.

## EXPECTATIONS

Teams should come with a commitment to be messengers of the great expectations theme at their schools, reaching out to students, faculty and parents upon their return home. For this reason, they should have a realistic plan of how they will continue the work back at home, as they plan, carry out and assess their efforts. Teams can expect an engaging training day and continued "virtual" support as their plans unfold. Teams are asked to document their work with pictures and brief written feedback from participants, which will be summarized and shared with the sponsors.

## DATES, LOCATIONS, LOGISTICS & REGISTRATION

All workshops run from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**March 8:** Fairfield Inn & Suites, White River Junction

**March 15:** Rutland (College of St. Joseph)

**March 29:** Burlington

\$15 per participant. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Registration closes two weeks prior to training day. Space is limited.

Register online at [surveymonkey.com/s/Great-ExpectationsWorkshop](https://surveymonkey.com/s/Great-ExpectationsWorkshop). For more information, contact Helen Beattie at [hbeattie@gmail.com](mailto:hbeattie@gmail.com) or 802-472-5127, or visit [yatst.com](http://yatst.com).