

Abstract for the Student Research Conference

The Vermont Legislative Research Service (VLRS) of the James M. Jeffords Center provides non-partisan policy research for legislators in Vermont. Teams of undergraduate students research current policy issues requested by state legislators and produce high quality reports under the supervision of Anthony Gierzynski and myself. My role as Assistant Director is to provide guidance to undergraduate students while they conduct research and help finalize policy reports in preparation for submittal to the legislators. I also contact State Representatives about current bills and provide them with past reports on related issues. Research areas are not restricted to any topic area and policy areas have included education, health care, government, and the environment. In addition to researching current policy issues, the students and I attend Committee meetings, and work at the State House thereby making legislators aware of our services. Some of the reports that I helped the students produce include:

- Causes of Obesity
- Soda Taxes and Obesity
- LEED Building Standards
- PACE Energy Program
- Pharmaceuticals in the Water
- Solid Waste Disposal
- State Employment Growth Programs
- Food Co-ops as Limited Liability Companies
- Rural Broadband
- Saving Recess and Lunch
- College Scholarships and Advance Credit
- Child Access Prevention to Firearm Laws

All of the VLRS reports can be found online at <http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/>.

My hope is to be able to showcase some of our work at the Student Research Conference with a poster presentation. I will inform others of the connection we are making between the University of Vermont and Vermont lawmakers and the useful research service we are providing.