

2019 Vermont Outstanding Teacher Day Introductions

Kristen Aines

Barstow Memorial School

Rutland Northeast SU

Kristen Aines, Guidance Counselor at Barstow Memorial School in Chittenden VT, embodies the development of a positive school culture through her work with student peer leaders and development of a character assembly each month.

Sheli Aldridge

Canaan Schools

Essex North SU

Sheli teaches dual enrollment courses, Basic Math, and provides targeted instruction after hours. She leads the Middle School March Madness competition, the pep rallies and events to recognize all students. She also Mentors and is a Varsity Girls Soccer Coach, private tutor, and a great asset to Canaan Schools.

Michael Antoniak

Northwest Technical Center

Maple Run Unified SD

Mike Antoniak has been an educator for nearly twenty years Mike is a well-respected veteran of the school. He is a firefighter, educator, instructor, coach, leader, and active community member. It is without hesitation that he is an Outstanding Teacher for Northwest Technical Center!

Marisa Astin

Rutland Middle School

Rutland City SD

Multi-faceted Educator, Colleague, Life-long Learner, Mother, and Traveler all describe Marisa. She engages students creatively and with passion. Notably cutting her hair as an incentive to read more books! She is an educator that models learning through actions that give students a voice at RMS.

Justin Aube

Bellows Falls Union High School

Windham Northeast SU

The Outstanding Teacher for the Bellows Falls Union High School is Justin Aube. Appreciated by students and colleagues for his friendly, easygoing approach to teaching, he is the kind of teacher that most students seek out for the classes that

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he teaches or just as a mentor and guide on a range of topics. Congratulations, Justin.

Nancy Baker
Dover Elementary School
Windham Central SU

Every so often you meet a colleague who personifies what it means to be a true educator. Someone with a kind heart and a work ethic that is second to none. A creative mind and a master at relationships. Nancy Baker is all these and more.

Jessie Baldwin
Riverside Middle School
Springfield SD

Jessie Baldwin is a librarian and teacher who is the heart of Riverside Middle School. Always positive and solution-oriented, she runs lunchtime book groups, coordinates our all-school book read, and works with teachers to integrate reading and literacy. She is a genuine treasure.

Raechel Barone
Orchard School
South Burlington SD

Insightful kindergarten teachers, like Raechel, are universal teachers who work to educate students in all aspects of life. Raechel is a strong teacher who works extensively on her instruction.

Ann Beattie
Waitsfield Elementary School
Harwood Unified Union SD

Looking for exemplary differentiation in action? Curious about effectively running various simultaneous learning centers? In need of a dose of calm unflappability? Have a complex math problem you're puzzling over? Hoping for the best experience for your kindergartener? Look no further than Ann.

Tammi Beattie
Randolph Technical Career Center
Orange Southwest Unified Union SD

Tammi Beattie is RTCC's outstanding Math teacher; Tammi advocates for students, making recommendations for further study and providing a logical rationale to

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students, parents, and teachers. Tammi is a great colleague to work with, fun by giving feedback directly and positively, but she also knows how to relax and have a great time. She is very deserving of this award

Rene Bernard

Leland & Gray UMHSD

Windham Central SU

Mr. Rene Bernard, Leland & Gray's band director, in his 3 years on the job, he has tripled the size of the instrumental music program, bringing a renewed sense of rigor, participation, and enthusiasm to the students and the community.

Joel Beste

Fair Haven UHSD

Slate Valley Unified SD

Mr. Joel Beste has been a PE teacher at Fair Haven Union High School for 4 years, and in that short time he has established himself among his colleagues as an enthusiastic and positive peer, a leader and a role model providing a physical education program that is personalized and inclusive of all.

Brian Boyes

Cabot School

Caledonia Central SU

Brian Boyes is the middle/high school music teacher at Cabot school, additionally, he is the architect for Cabot's innovative High School PBL curriculum. He has leveraged what he learned as a Rowland Fellow to create a dynamic and creative learning environment in Vermont's smallest High School.

Courtney Bryan

John F. Kennedy Elementary School

Winooski SD

Courtney Bryan is entering her 10th year as a teacher at JFK Elementary School. Her talents as a dedicated and caring teacher shine in the classroom. Her enthusiasm and love for teaching make learning fun and exciting. Our students are lucky to have her, she is truly an asset to our school and community.

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Lynda Burt

Bingham Memorial School

Addison Central SD

Lynda is silly, endlessly upbeat and creative. She tells good stories, plays fun reading games and helps good and struggling readers.

She buys a book for every student she works with for his/her birthday. She cares a lot about her students and is "super awesome."

Joseph Carroll

Montpelier High School

Montpelier Roxbury SD

Whether it's tea, great discussion, or a friendly face, Joe's room is always filled with kids eager to be with him. He is truly a whole hearted educator.

David Carter

Center for Technology, Essex

Essex Westford Educational Community Unified Union SD

Dave's exceptional practice extends beyond the classroom walls to team and program meetings. His participation in meetings with parents, students and school staff is marked by a deep understanding of his students and a desire to participate with a strengths-based lens.

Denise Coburn

Orleans Central Early Childhood Program

Orleans Central SU

Denise Coburn has been an early childhood teacher in OCSU since 2000. Her knowledge, skills, and positive influence have impacted many young children's lives. Denise always goes above and beyond to engage all learners and help them experience success.

Catharine Cooke

Mill River Union High School

Mill River Unified Union SD

Katya Cooke consistently aims to impact the learning culture at Mill River Union High School. Most recently, she created a brand new avenue for students to explore world languages. In school year 2016/2017, she began teaching Russian. Now, along with Russian 1, MRU offers Russian 2 and 3!

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Robert Couillard

Burlington Technical Center

Burlington SD

Bob Couillard is a well-known and highly dedicated Career and Technical Ed teacher. He has been a mainstay in career and technical education in the Burlington Technical Center since 1989. Over the past thirty years, Bob has taught both high school and adult students in our Welding and Metal Fabrication program.

Charlie Cummings

Fisher Elementary School

Battenkill Valley SU

A Fourth Grade Teacher at Fisher Elementary School for the past 8 years, Charlie Cummings is a compassionate and knowledgeable teacher who enjoys sharing his love of science and learning, Charlie encourages his students to be active learners who are as engaged in the classroom and out in the community.

Cathy Darley

Orwell Village School

Slate Valley Unified SD

A veteran educator and former board-certified science teacher from the state of Washington, Mrs. Cathy Darley has taught fifth-grade at Orwell Village School for the past four years. Mrs. Darley cultivates that extreme insatiable thirst for knowledge in her students we all strive for.

Jeffrey Davis

Mt. Mansfield Union High School

Mt. Mansfield Unified Union SD

Jeff Davis, 2019 University of Vermont Outstanding Teacher & Mt. Mansfield Union High School Math Teacher, has a contiguous passion for math and learning. Students and staff leave their interactions with him recharged and ready to move forward, be it in Pre-Calculus or a redesign of Pre-Algebra.

Jenny Degree

Folsom Education & Community Center

Grand Isle SU

In the relentless pursuit of student success, Jenny is a passionate advocate, cheerleader and work horse on behalf of each individual student in her dynamic

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2nd grade classroom. The Folsom Education Center community congratulates you on this well-deserved honor!

Jillian Dupuis

St. Johnsbury Schools

St. Johnsbury SD

Jillian Dupuis is an outstanding teacher because of her dedication to every student in our school community. Her classroom is a safe haven to any and all where learning feels possible despite the challenging situations. She is deeply respected by colleagues & families in St. Johnsbury School.

Rebecca Ebel

Vergennes Union High School

Addison Northwest SD

Through her presence in the classroom, Becky provides meaningful pathways for students to access content, develop skills and challenge themselves. As a colleague, she challenges us to have courageous conversations about how to implement systemic change that supports student learning.

Breana Einsig

Arlington Memorial

Battenkill Valley SU

Breana Einsig brings learning to life in her Spanish classroom. Integrating language and culture, she creates a student-centered environment where learners embrace new challenges and take risks in their learning. This year she led a trip to Spain with 20 travelers!

Kathleen Ferguson

Cambridge Elementary School

Lamoille North SU

Kathy is a celebrity at CES in part because of the engaging lessons that she designs for our students on topics from conflict resolution to sexual abuse prevention. Her cast of puppets and dolls, beautiful smile, and engaging sense humor are the only tools she needs to captivate her audience.

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Maureen Ferland
Lunenburg School
Kingdom East SD

In the morning, Maureen Ferland stands at the door to Lunenburg Elementary School and greets every child with smile, kind word and hug. For 3.5 years she has worked tirelessly as a literacy interventionist; each year her young readers, writers and thinkers emerge confident and reading on grade level. Ms. Ferland inspires and supports her colleagues in seeing the strength of all. Lunenburg School would not be the same without Ms. Ferland's energy and inspiration.

William Fishell
Peoples Academy Middle School
Lamoille South Unified Union SU

Bill is always helping students push their thinking from the “easy” path by saying something along the lines of “that sounds good, but what if...” They always fall for the “what if...!” He also does this for his colleagues and administrators.

Aaron Garceau
Missisquoi Valley UHSD
Missisquoi Valley SD

Mr. Aaron Garceau is the instrumental music director at Missisquoi Valley Union Middle/High School. His approach to teaching makes his classroom a safe and approachable environment for all students. He works tirelessly to support music education at both at the local and state level.

Ileen Gilbar
Richmond Elementary School
Mt. Mansfield Unified Union SD

Ileen has an amazing sense of humor that she infuses into all aspects of her day. Her students are consistently laughing at her daily jokes and her ability to bring any story to life. Her colleagues are always seeking her out within the school day to benefit from her wonderful sense of humor.

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Tracy Giroux

Alburgh Community Education Center

Grand Isle SU

Tracy Giroux is a primary teacher that has dedicated the past 36 years to working with students, families, community members and her colleagues. She is the person that teachers go to for advice and encouragement. She advocates for ALL students and holds professionalism to a high standard.

Kelley Green

Central Elementary School

Windham Northeast SU

Kelley Green provides a calm, consistent, and caring environment for all students. With her straight-forward and whole-child approach, she connects with each of her students. It is no wonder that all her students quickly come to trust her and thrive under her guidance, instruction, and support.

Jeffrey Grogan

Stowe Middle & High School

Lamoille South Unified Union SU

As a firm believer in farm-to-school, Jeff spends a portion of his summer working in the school garden – harvesting vegetables that the food service program will utilize once school is back in session.

Nan Guilmette

Mt. Abraham UMHSD

Mt. Abraham Unified SD

Nan Guilmette is a middle school language arts teacher. She is skilled at the art of instruction, unceasingly collaborative, reflective, an advocate for her students, creative, has a sense of fun and cares deeply about getting things right.

Karen Hammond

Milton High School

Milton Town SD

Karen Hammond is a dynamic science teacher who inspires her students. She builds personal relationships to reach all students, develops partnerships with parents and has deep ties to the community. She is a natural leader working with UP for Learning to bring student voice to our district mission.

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Ashley Hanlon

Essex High School

Essex Westford Educational Community Unified Union SD

Ashley develops a strong community in her classroom. She uses transferable skills to help shape behavior that is appropriate. This makes students feel safe and respected which contributes to students feeling like part of a community. Ashley is a relentless advocate for her students.

Ross Harmon

Mettawee Community School

Bennington-Rutland SU

Ross Harmon has taught at the Mettawee School since 2006. He creates a learning environment that is safe, positive, and fun. Ross is a devoted teacher who builds positive relationships with all of his students. He works collaboratively with others to make sure his students grow as much as possible.

Joel Heller

Hazen UHSD

Orleans Southwest SU

Joel Heller is a math teacher at Hazen Union School. He goes above and beyond his contracted hours to help students before and after school. He is always the first one in and the last one out because he is helping students so that they will do better in math. He created a Math Help tutoring program.

Diane "Ernie" Hemingway

Highgate Elementary School

Missisquoi Valley SD

Ernie's reputation as an incredible teacher is matched by her passion for theater. For over 30 years Ernie has led the drama "department" in our afterschool program. She has produced and directed over 100 plays for our school and school community. Many of the plays were written by her as well. She also created and leads a summer Backpack Theatre and travels all over Vermont to bring theater to rural communities.

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Holly Hjelt

Dorset School

Bennington-Rutland SU

Holly utilizes Positive Adult Language and routines of Responsive Classroom to foster independence, resourcefulness and persistence. Through her work with NOFA's Farm to School program, her students read and write enthusiastically about the experiences she provides both in and out of the classroom.

Karen Holbrook

Rutland Intermediate School

Rutland City SD

Karen Holbrook has been the consummate professional educator at Rutland Intermediate School for nearly two decades. She is a student-centered teacher and is motivated by her students and their desire to learn. The teacher leadership at RIS chose Karen, because of her commitment to her craft.

Kris Hoyt

Richford Junior & Senior High School - Cold Hollow Career Center

Franklin Northeast SU

Kris Hoyt shines as a teacher leader and has been instrumental in the implementation of proficiency-based learning. He has a strong rapport with his students, and develops authentic learning opportunities. He encourages students to persevere and approach challenges with a growth mindset.

Max Jennings

Union Elementary School

Montpelier Roxbury SD

Max is a PE teacher at Union Elementary School. He is an incredible educator dedicated to creating a safe space for all students as they learn how to move their bodies and create healthy lifestyles. Max is a fabulous professional and an asset to the Montpelier Roxbury School District in so many ways.

Miranda Johnson

Hinesburg Community School

Champlain Valley SD

Miranda Johnson continuously demonstrates a commitment to creating an inspirational and harmonious kindergarten classroom that supports student

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development and achievement! Miranda was awarded the Sanford Teacher award in 2018 for her outstanding contributions to student learning.

Grace Keane

Blue Mountain Union School

Orange East SU

Grace has been a first-grade teacher and currently teaches language arts and social studies in upper elementary. To say Grace is passionate about her love for teaching is an understatement! Each day, Grace shows up with a smile on her face to support students academically and emotionally!

Richard Kelley

Lake Region UHSD

Orleans Central SU

Rick Kelley is finishing his 20th year as a media technology teacher at Lake Region Union High School. His classroom is a center for STEAM and a MAKER SPACE at its finest. He's always got a smile on his face and is happy to help. Lake Region is lucky to have a tech savvy teacher leader like Rick.

Sarah Langlois

Randolph Elementary School

Orange Southwest Unified Union SD

Sarah goes out of her way to support her students and their families. She masterfully orchestrates her classroom making it look easy and super fun! She is calm and nurturing with her students and has high standards for learning, which makes Sarah's class an exceptional learning environment.

Lanni Luce West

Dothan Brook School

Hartford SD

Lanni is an innovative 4th grade teacher who works tirelessly to engage her students in hands-on student-centered learning. She brings her passion for drama to DBS through a yearly collaboration with Northern Stage's Shakespeare in the Schools program and directing an awe-inspiring student musical.

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Kari Magoon
Elm Hill School
Springfield SD

Kari Magoon is the kind of teacher who constantly creates unique, rigorous, and differentiated learning experiences for all her students in every subject area. She can take the most mundane phonics skill and create an engaging lesson that shows students how it is relevant to their everyday lives.

Sarah Marcus
Proctor Junior & Senior High School
Greater Rutland County SU

Sarah is an excellent educator whose enthusiasm and passion for teaching high school science is inspiring. She adopted a learner-centered, inquiry-based philosophy in her classroom, as well as a classroom culture that fosters creativity, independence and risk-taking that helps students grow.

Christiana Martin
U32 High School
Washington Central Unified Union SU

Christiana Martin, a Social Studies Teacher at U32, has an energy and vibrancy that is contagious. She actively seeks student opinions/suggestions, and easily adapts her teaching methods to suit the needs of her students. She ensures that her students are actively engaged!

Jacqueline McCarty
Harwood Union Middle School
Harwood Unified Union SD

It is a genuine honor for me to present Ms. McCarty, our Harwood Union 8th grade English teacher, as the 2019 UVM Outstanding Teacher winner. Creative, passionate, brilliant, engaging, connected, and deeply caring are just some of the reasons we honor her tonight!

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Virginia McLane

Monkton Central School

Mt. Abraham Unified SD

Virginia works tirelessly to ensure that all her students are working to their potential. She is able to differentiate lessons to fit the needs of all learners. Virginia is dedicated and excels at her job.

Leanne Morton

Champlain Valley Union High School

Champlain Valley SD

To observe Leanne's classroom is to witness a collaborative, engaged, inspired community of learners. Deep Latin study is punctuated by laughter and joyful exclamations. Leanne has been a champion of Latin and--more importantly--teaching that puts relationships at the center of learning.

Jeff Moulton

Bellows Free Academy Union High School (St. Albans)

Maple Run Unified SD

Jeffrey Moulton works tirelessly to provide support and encouragement for all students. His initiative to lead school improvement greatly benefited the BFA community. His efforts to transform Social Studies classes to meet proficiencies were extraordinary.

Jeffrey Murawski

Middlebury Union Middle School

Addison Central SD

Every once in a while, you meet someone in your profession who gives, gives and gives again. Jeff is one of those educators. He takes each district/school initiative to heart. He's a model educator in every way: devoted to students, a great communicator, a fantastic listener, a visionary. Inspiring!

Elizabeth Nolan

Edmunds Elementary School

Burlington SD

Betsy is an all-around contributor to the EES and BSD community. Her music lessons are always engaging which, given the age span of her students - 5 years old to 11, is not as easy as some may think.

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Hannah Prescott

Hartford Memorial Middle School

Hartford SD

Hannah Prescott goes above and beyond to connect her students with the world around them. She continually looks for ways to bring community into her classroom and her classroom into the community. Her students leave her class with a deeper understanding of who they are and their role in the world.

Sara Reed

Lamoille Union High School

Lamoille North SU

Sara is universally recognized as an excellent teacher in our school by students and staff alike. She works tirelessly to help students do their best. She also continues her professional development by becoming certified in multiple AP opportunities and by partnering with Harvard University.

Heidi Richard

Green Mountain Technology & Career Center

Lamoille North SU

Heidi has balanced the students' varied personalities and career interests to give each a firm basis beginning in the health field. Students recognize and thank Heidi for this. She is the kind of teacher that our alumni will come back to visit and let her know how their careers are advancing.

Lisa Robtoy

Enosburg Falls Elementary School

Franklin Northeast SU

Lisa Robtoy works tirelessly to ensure all students learn and grow and is dedicated to finding a learning strategy that will work for each student. She skillfully manages students with challenging behaviors, applying trauma-sensitive practices throughout each day. Lisa is a true master teacher.

Susan Rosato

Colchester High School

Colchester SD

Susan Rosato, an English Learner teacher at Colchester High School has a deep understanding of how to support students as they learn the English language and

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acclimate to American culture. We are most proud of her commitment to our students and their families which goes far beyond her classroom.

Timothy Sanborn

Barre Town Elementary School

Barre Unified Union SD

Tim Sanborn is one of the most selfless, open-minded, hands-on, and passionate educators we have had the privilege to work with. Having Tim as a colleague makes us want to be better teachers. Having Tim as a friend will make you want to be a better person.

Rebecca Savage

Winooski High School

Winooski SD

Rebecca Savage is a WHS ELL teacher who is dedicated to ensuring that all students thrive in our community. She stays after school to support students, facilitates ELL summer school and runs adult classes for New American families. Becky's dedication to her students is inspiring.

Cassidy Shumway

Westford Elementary School

Essex Westford Educational Community Unified Union SD

More than once, visitors who have witnessed Cassidy Shumway teach have all used one word to describe her: magical. Cassidy is more than magical. She is kind, warm, generous, and an incredible teacher. The community of Westford School wishes to recognize the magic of Cassidy Shumway.

Amanda Silva

St. Johnsbury School

St. Johnsbury SD

Mandy Silva is a School Counselor in St. Johnsbury. She is fearless at tackling student issues in our school, handling every situation that no one else wants to even approach. Mandy is involved in supporting the lives of her students both in and out of school.

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Kim Simmons

Addison Central School

Addison Northwest SD

Kim is able to see the whole child consistently and works from a strength-based model. She has this natural ability to balance the dance of humor, guidance, and leadership on a daily basis. Her students feel safe with her, as evidenced by one student's public admission..."Decimals make me sweat!"

Donald Singer

Spaulding High School

Barre Unified Union SU

Lt Col Don Singer has taught JROTC at Spaulding HS for 14 years and coached cross country and track for 10 and 12 yrs. He works with students on trips, competitions, parades, ceremonies, color guards, community volunteerism & camps. Don values building relationships with students and is greatly respected.

Jennifer Skerrett

Bellows Free Academy (Fairfax)

Franklin West SU

Jenn Skerrett's work at BFA's Middle School for over two decades has significantly impacted hundreds of students. Her passion for geography has led to world travel and student success in Vermont's Geo-Bee. Jenn's commitment to BFA extends beyond the school day for collaboration and student events.

Katherine Slade

Career Development Center

Southwest VT Regional Technical SD

Kathy has been with the District since 1999 and has taught Medical Professions as well as A & P. Kathy has been a co-leader for Skills USA and has led many students to earn both statewide and national Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals. Kathy is extremely giving of her time often organizing fundraisers, traveling long distances with students, including on school breaks. Kathy is adored by the faculty, staff and students alike.

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Susan Steenkamp

Craftsbury Schools

Orleans Southwest SU

Susan Steenkamp intentionally appreciates “the good” in our work life and notices areas for improvement. She takes a leadership role in facilitating positive change for our school. She will take on extra responsibilities on behalf of our students and school community.

Penny Stevenson

Barnet Elementary School

Caledonia Central SU

Penny Stevenson is a gifted educator, an example to her peers, and a legend in the Barnet community for having set the foundation in kindergarten for hundreds of Barnet students over the years. Penny is the teacher that every Principal covets, and that every family wants teaching their child.

Phil Surks

South Burlington High School

South Burlington SD

In addition to being selected for this honor Phil Surks also recently received a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching. Both of these prestigious awards recognize his outstanding contributions as a teacher of science in South Burlington.

Stephanie Teleen

Milton Elementary School

Milton Town SD

Steph is a force for action and positive change. She has asked tough questions about systemic changes to make our approach more trauma informed and has improved our culture by creating traditions infused with multiculturalism.

Taylor Warner

Champlain Elementary School

Burlington SD

Mrs. Warner is a master of differentiating instruction, the Responsive Classroom, and classroom management. She builds wonderful relationships with students and colleagues, shows how much she cares about each student every day, and

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communicates frequently with parents. Equity is her focus – giving every student voice and choice while providing the tools to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.

Ben Weiss

Rumney Memorial School (Middlesex)

Washington Central Unified Union SD

Ben Weiss is an elementary teacher at Rumney Memorial School in Middlesex. Ben creates experiences that engage students' minds, spark their curiosity and inspire them to be kind, work hard and have fun. A lifelong learner, he shares his enthusiasm each day through blogging about his classroom!

Wendy Wentz

Wallingford Elementary School

Mill River Unified Union SD

Wendy Wentz, a special education teacher in the Mill River Unified Union School District, serves as the Lead Teacher of the MRUUSD Foundations Program; a special education program that serves young children impacted by Developmental Trauma. Ms. Wentz stops at nothing to meet her students' needs!

Tami White

Poultney Elementary School

Greater Rutland County SU

Tami White, a teacher at Poultney Elementary School, has embraced new initiatives through the implementation of project-based learning which assists her students in taking ownership of their learning and identify their own strengths so that they may become confident in their ideas and beliefs.

Frances Willard

Otter Valley High School

Rutland Northeast SU

Frannie's teaching style allows all levels of artists to consistently demonstrate proficiency and beyond. Frannie's unique ability to shift student mindsets, especially those who feel they lack "artistic abilities" and confidence prior to her class is a true testament to her craft as an educator.

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Tyler Willis

Lyndon Town School

Kingdom East SD

For 3.5 years, Tyler Willis' has served as a middle school teacher extraordinaire at Lyndon Town School. During after-hours he coaches sports and leads a team to Vermont History Day. His team has won this competition and represented Vermont at the National level. It is Tyler Willis' energy and commitment to students and learning that serves as a gift for all the children and families whom he touches.

Lauralee Wilson

Georgia Elementary & Middle School

Franklin West SU

Always with a smile on her face and with children's best interest at heart she navigates each day in support of every member of our learning community. She is a constant source of inspiration to be the best educator one can be and her support and leadership is inspirational.