



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
**EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES**

42nd Vermont Outstanding Educator Day

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

“Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be.”

- Rita Pierson, Educator

***Presented in collaboration with the
Vermont Agency of Education***



VERMONT
AGENCY OF EDUCATION



42nd

**VERMONT
OUTSTANDING
EDUCATOR DAY**

&

**VT AGENCY OF
EDUCATION
2023 TEACHER
OF THE YEAR
RECOGNITION**

NOVEMBER 9, 2022



Schedule of Events

College of Education and
Social Services Interim Dean
Katharine Shepherd Welcome
and Introductions

Vermont National
Education Association
President Donald Tinney
Welcome and Recognition of
Outstanding Educators

Vermont Agency of Education
Secretary Daniel French
Recognition of Outstanding
Educators and 2023 Vermont
Teacher of the Year

Keynote Speaker Karen
McCalla, 2022 Vermont
Teacher of the Year, Mill River
Union High School

Presentation of 2022
Outstanding Educators
Awardees by UVM Director
of Educator Licensure
Programs Ellen Baker,
Department of Education
Chairperson Kimberly
Vannest and Director of
Community Collaboration
Katie Revelle

Closing Remarks by Interim
Dean Katharine Shepherd



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"Teachers, I believe, are the most responsible and important members of society because their professional efforts affect the fate of the earth."

-Helen Caldicott, author and peace activist

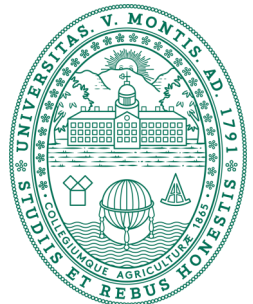
Dear Outstanding Educators,

Welcome to the UVM College of Education and Social Services' 42nd annual Outstanding Educator Day. This is a day to honor Vermont's Outstanding Educators, including the 2023 Teacher of the Year. We thank you for allowing us to publicly honor you today for educating the next generation of Vermont students. Each day, you help them to develop skills and to become more creative and humane. Today we gather to recognize the long hours, patience, perseverance, and passion defining your important work. We honor your commitment, your successes as well as your trials, and the powerful impact you have had on the children of Vermont and our future. Thank you for your service and your inspiration to all of us. You make a great difference every day, and we appreciate all that you do.

Best Regards,

Katharine Shepherd

Katharine G. Shepherd
Interim Dean
College of Education and Social Services
[https://www.uvm.edu/cess/doe/
outstanding-educator-awards-and-
vermont-teacher-year](https://www.uvm.edu/cess/doe/outstanding-educator-awards-and-vermont-teacher-year)



Beth Abbott-Koch

**Fayston Elementary School
Harwood Unified Union School District**

Community, connection and care are the demonstrated tenants of Beth's approach to teaching. Her love for children and dedication to ensuring that all students can thrive is palpable across settings. She sets a foundation for early education success with her nurturing, clear demeanor and student advocacy. Beth also builds strong family connections that demonstrate the importance of partnership and communication in a child's education. We are fortunate to have her as an educator in our community.

Emmanuel Amoah

**Burlington High School
Burlington School District**

As a result of his dedication to his students, Emmanuel has seen amazing results from a wide variety of students over the years. For example, in his AP Calculus class, the percent of students who get a score of 5 on the AP exam is very high. One year, he had 29 out of 31 students achieve a score of 5! Furthermore, Emmanuel has great success with students in his Algebra 2 class who have traditionally struggled with Algebra concepts.

Beth Bearor

**Vergennes Union Elementary School
Addison Northwest School District**

Beth's classroom is student centered. She always strives to do what is best for kids. Beth sets students up for success through teaching expectations and providing structures that support all students. Kindergarteners take an active role in their learning. Throughout the day she is responsive to student needs and seamlessly differentiates so that all students grow and thrive.

Jamie Bedard

**Folsom Education & Community Center
Grand Isle Supervisory Union**

Jamie is an outstanding art educator and colleague who brings positivity, creativity and the courage to take on challenges; she is the "yes, we can" person on staff. She is open to new ideas, able to hear other perspectives, and take feedback. She has inspired students to pursue personalized learning in their artwork this year, and that has led to some amazing creations. Her excellence in the classroom, her collaborative approach, and her aspiration for our students make her a joy to work with.

Justin Bedell

**Bellows Free Academy
Maple Run Unified School District**

Justin Bedell's classroom fosters a commitment to excellence and trust where students feel welcomed and comfortable to be who they are. His positive spirit is contagious with his students who respect his ability to raise the bar each day. Mr. Bedell demonstrated extraordinary leadership by taking the time to look inward and lead through the aftershock of the pandemic. He facilitated collaborations in a manner where everyone had a voice and everyone felt valued.

Sharon Boardman

Rice Memorial High School

Sharon Boardman embodies what it means to be passionate about teaching. Over her 30 years at Rice, Sharon has been a staple of the science department participating in everything at this school. I was impressed with the hours that Sharon put into her job -- after many decades of experience she was still learning herself and staying after school to bolster her knowledge of the subject. Simply put, Sharon IS Rice and IS an example you want to show younger teachers.

Grace Bosco

St. Johnsbury Academy

Mrs. Bosco cares deeply about the children she serves, She has personified the idea of self-improvement, always seeking new ways to meet and adapt to the needs of her students and perfect her craft. She is respected by the faculty and staff and often sought out for professional counsel. She is a team player in every sense of the word. Mrs. Bosco's efforts have made St. Johnsbury Academy a better place, her efforts are recognized and deeply appreciated.

Katie Burke

Woodstock Union High School and Middle School

Windsor Central Supervisory Union

Katie Burke, Woodstock Union High School and Middle School head nurse, educated our faculty, staff, students, and families with the utmost professionalism and care through the pandemic. She calls herself a "simple country nurse," but her power to make us all feel safe and well can never be underestimated. Katie builds a sense of belonging for all members of the school community.

John Bushnell

Spaulding High School

Barre Unified Union School District

In his 5 years at Spaulding HS, John Bushnell has won the respect of both students and staff. He is a great role model who treats all equally. He is also a great communicator and shows he genuinely cares for each student, not just the ones in his classes but those he meets in the hallways as well. He comes to class prepared and students strive to succeed in his classes. John is the teacher we all aspire to be!

Alyson Callahan

Otter Valley Union Middle High School

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union

Alyson exemplifies all of the qualities of the professionals that our education system needs right now: innovative practice, leadership, and commitment to students. Alyson's classes are characterized by students doing the thinking and heavy lifting, thoughtful and rigorous assignments, and meaningful questions to consider. It is clear when you visit her classroom that students are cared for and challenged. More importantly, it is clear that the students know they are cared for and challenged.

Hannah Carey

Champlain Valley Union High School

Champlain Valley School District

Hannah Carey is a creative, connected, and collaborative teacher. She knows her students deeply, resulting in lasting relationships. Students name her as a favorite teacher for years after taking her class. Hannah is most passionate about creating opportunities to make learning more engaging and pursues innovations to meet this need. Her ideas use connections between math and other subjects to help students see the relevance of their learning in the world. We are grateful for Hannah's work!

Krissy Chambers

Union Street School

Springfield School District

Mrs. Chambers hated PE as a student and now makes it her mission to go above and beyond as a PE teacher to ensure her students do not feel the same way. Krissy creates amazing lessons that get her students moving positively and participates with them, which engages them further. Mrs. Chambers creates and expects an atmosphere of respect and cooperation, and above all, Krissy doesn't let her students give up on themselves.

Kristen Chapman

Hartford Memorial Middle School

Hartford School District

Kristen is an incredible music and choral teacher, who despite any obstacle that has come her way over the last two and a half years—including rain and snow during outside class times—persisted in keeping our kids singing and engaging in music! Not only did she work tirelessly to support all our students in their music education, she was also able to keep the amazing HMMS musicals alive and well in the process, providing an incredible experience for participants and audience members alike!

Archie Clark

Fair Haven Grade School

Slate Valley Unified School District

As a colleague or student of Mr. Clarks, you will likely find yourself both challenged and inspired. You will find yourself challenged by his ability to maintain high standards and consistently hold others accountable for being their best selves, always maintaining respect and dignity for those involved. In the moments when you want to accept what IS instead of what CAN be, Mr. Clark will know you well enough to remind you of what you believe, he will remind you of all that can be.

Dan Clark

The Center for Technology, Essex

Essex Westford Educational Community Unified Union School District

Dan's constant good nature, content knowledge, and ability to make his lessons engaging and accessible for all students are only a few of the reasons why Dan Clark is an outstanding teacher. In addition to the automotive skills that he teaches, Dan finds a way to integrate science, math, and business skills relevant to the program content. He is dedicated and passionate about what he does. Dan is truly a compassionate teacher, exceptional colleague, and a true leader at our center.

Daniel Clarke

**Enosburg Middle School
Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union**

Dan Clarke is committed to making connections with all students to ensure they feel that they belong and feel valued in his classroom. This was especially apparent during the pandemic when he prioritized student wellbeing over content, but also ensured that when they entered his classroom they were ready for learning. Dan's instructional practice is engaging, rigorous, and accessible to his learners. Dan consistently holds all students to high expectations.

Dena Cody

**Union Elementary School
Montpelier Roxbury School District**

Mrs. Cody goes above and beyond for her students, families, and teammates. She is always bettering herself as an educator by taking workshops and courses to improve her teaching practice. Mrs. Cody incorporates love, silliness, and songs into her teaching to make the Union Elementary School Kindergarten experience an engaging entrance to her students' primary years of education. She is a master at the craft of teaching early childhood and is always willing to share her knowledge and expertise.

Paul Curtiss

**Milton Middle School
Milton Town School District**

Paul has a passion for learning and always presents his best self; he is a supportive colleague and friend. He brings in the love of arts and simply wants to help students be their best selves. Paul demonstrates the knowledge of how to better our systems and is willing to collaborate with others. He is open to change and growing his practices.

Margaret (Meg) Dawkins

**Berlin Elementary School
Washington Central Unified Union School District**

Meg Dawkins has served in our district for 20 years, and as Berlin's Speech and Language Pathologist, she has served hundreds of kids. She's helped Berlin School establish and maintain a strong Farm to School program. Meg has been an advocate for outdoor education and has ensured students experience hikes on our school nature trail. Meg is an amazing colleague and always has the best interest of students in mind, while being a positive factor in a professional culture of learning.

Davida Delena

**Stowe Elementary School
Lamoille South Unified Union School District**

Davida Delena's first introduction to teaching at Stowe Elementary School was as a student teacher in 2003. Later that same year, she was hired as a fourth grade teacher and has remained a steady presence at the school since. Davida has an inquisitive and creative mind and encourages those same attributes in her students. She has taken on many roles within the school community and is a wonderful colleague and expert advocate, always keeping students at the center of everything she does.

Lisa Dold

**John F. Kennedy Elementary School
Winooski School District**

Lisa Dold, special educator at JFK Elementary, demonstrates excellence in her work on a daily basis. She works tirelessly to support students, families and staff members within the district, with a focus on continued improvement for student outcomes. Lisa takes a leadership role within her team, guiding them to meet the needs of students and improve the systems of support for them. Her positive energy and focus is an inspiration to everyone who works with her.

Kimberly Donaldson

**Mettawee Community School
Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union**

Kimberly Donaldson has been working at Mettawee as a literacy specialist for many years. Kim is very dedicated to her work as an educator, mentor, parent, and advocate for our students. Not only is Kim a strong literacy teacher, she is also our data manager at Mettawee. In addition, Kim has been a leader by being a mentor to teachers in our SU. Kim has a positive attitude, always eager to learn, is devoted to helping her colleagues, and cares deeply about our students.

Leslie Dumas

**Richford Elementary School
Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union**

Leslie Dumas makes learning engaging for her students, they all grow academically, socially and emotionally from her responsive teaching practices, her caring nature, and compassionate personality. She is patient, clear, and concise with students. Her classroom environment blends creativity, predictability, and calm. Aside from being an excellent educator, Leslie goes above and beyond in her school community by volunteering for committees and mentoring new teachers.

Krista Dy

**U-32 Middle High School
Washington Central Unified Union School District**

Krista Dy contributes so to U-32 as a teacher, mentor, club advisor, coach, etc.. Krista worked with students to start an affinity group for BIPOC students and advised them through the process of getting the Black Lives Matter Flag raised at our school. She champions arts education that is both comprehensive and rigorous. For the past two years, she has been an inspiration on how to be sunshine in a pandemic for teachers, staff and students.

Laura Eichorn

**Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School
South Burlington School District**

Laura is a six-year veteran mathematics teacher at Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School in the South Burlington School District. As a faculty member at FHTMS she demonstrates a growth mindset and is known for developing creative and authentic learning experiences for her students. She was an early adopter and leader for both Universal Design for Learning and of our school's nascent Proficiency Based Learning system. Her enthusiasm and leadership gives shape to Team Verve (6th grade) at FHTMS.

Elizabeth Emerson

**Peoples Academy Middle Level
Lamoille South Unified Union School District**

This year's nominee for the UVM outstanding teacher award goes to the "heart and soul" of Peoples Academy Middle Level: Elizabeth Emerson. Over the last 33 years in the district, she has been a para, 5th grade teacher, a Family & Consumer Science teacher, a 7th grade humanities teacher, a 5th + 6th grade math teacher and finally an online teacher through VTVLC. Her willingness to continually grow and do anything for what's best for kids is what makes her so deserving of recognition.

Melissa Flint

**Mary Hogan School
Addison Central School District**

Melissa is a cheerleader for every student and an engaging, optimistic colleague. When students walk into her classroom, they immediately feel that they belong. Parents are welcomed into their child's learning and one noted she "works tirelessly to foster an environment built upon love and support for her students." This care shone during COVID when she recorded helpful videos and went the extra mile with frequent and thoughtful check-ins.

Mariah Gariepy

**Lake Region Union High School
Orleans Central Supervisory Union**

Mariah teaches a very diverse group of learners and does so successfully. She maintains order, addresses tough topics with grace and aplomb, meets the needs of varied students, uses great examples from history and popular culture to support the learning, and infuses her classroom with kindness and good humor. She has done valuable work to support students in completing extra Folio Tasks. She is heavily involved in student activities and she is a terrific colleague and goes above and beyond!

Tammimarie Gilbert

**Essex High School
Essex Westford Educational Community Unified Union School District**

Tammy Gilbert is a master at motivating and inspiring students in such subtle ways that they hardly know they are under her spell. From the basics of algebra to the abstract nature of AP Calc, Tammy connects the dots in ways that are clear, concise, and meaningful. Her joy is contagious and has made otherwise reserved students fall in love with math. Tammy holds the unwavering belief that all students can be successful mathematicians, and students forever have a cheerleader in their corner.

Amanda Gurney

**Northwest Primary School
Rutland City School District**

Mrs. Gurney has served Northwest School for the past 13 years as the School Counselor. Mrs. Gurney has been an integral part of the school community in many roles. It is evident that Mrs. Gurney puts students first and has built a trusting, supportive relationship with students and families. She has been instrumental in supporting the school during the last couple of years and has made our school community a better place.

Samantha Holmberg

**Randolph Union Middle High School
Orange Southwest Unified School District**

Samantha Holmberg was nominated for this award by staff and students alike who recognize her strong contributions to the Randolph Union High School community through teaching communication skills, helping students to take healthy risks in the classroom, and lessons that are thoughtfully prepared to help students see world issues from multiple perspectives. Sam also leads a community service elective that helps our students give back locally and globally.

Heidi Huestis

**Charlotte Central School
Champlain Valley School District**

Heidi Huestis has touch-points with every staff member and student in our building sharing her love of literature with all. She uses her knowledge of students, their interests and their abilities to create access to rich books for all. She volunteered as a middle school advisor and spends every morning creating a safe space and fostering connections with our middle school students. Heidi is more than our CCS librarian, she is an asset to the whole CCS community.

Seth Hungerford

**Cold Hollow Career Center
Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union**

Seth Hungerford makes a difference in the lives of his students. He prepares students for success in life. Students see Mr. Hungerford as a mentor and as someone who will push them to be a better version of themselves. He has a common sense and tough love approach to education that students respect.

Roy Hutchins

**Waterville Elementary School
Lamoille North Unified School District**

Roy has worked at Waterville Elementary School for many years in many capacities. When Waterville needed an additional math teacher, he took it upon himself to get his endorsement so he could fill in that role. He also coordinates many of our school carnivals and activities and arranges our winter sports program. He is a team player and it is very obvious how much he cares about this school and community by his dedication and many years of service.

Mary Jardine

**Miller's Run School
Kingdom East School District**

A scientist and consummate learner, Mary Jardine takes all of her children to new heights of learning and understanding science. They are captivated by learning as they look under microscopes or create local projects. Through her use of trout in the classroom and advocating for the strength and voice of young women and all children to support the health and wellness of all in her community, Mary is a true asset to the Millers Run School and Kingdom East School District.

Amber Keep

**Colchester High School
Colchester School District**

Amber Keep, an accomplished special educator and leader is known for her student first approach that is rooted in high levels of engagement and trust. She pushes her students with disabilities to learn to advocate for themselves while nurturing and instructing in students areas of need. Her work was instrumental in the creation of modified assessments and scales to increase student access to universal instruction. Amber is always willing to go the extra mile for her students and colleagues.

Karen Kysar

**Stafford Technical Center
Rutland City School District**

Karen works tirelessly to provide rich, creative, and differentiated curricular experiences for our students. She has a remarkable gift that enables her to encourage her students to find their passions even if they fall outside of her area of expertise. She creates multiple opportunities for her students to engage in the community through community learning projects, field trips, and art shows. She has the ability to ignite passion in her students so that they go beyond expectations.

Jenna Lewandowski

**Orchard School
South Burlington School District**

The Orchard School faculty is in full support for Jenna Lewandowski, our Speech Language Pathologist, as our Outstanding Educator. In a large elementary school, Jenna's caseload is extensive though she works to ensure students are getting the instruction they need. She takes time to teach our staff of proactive communication strategies and has inspired us by her advocacy of neurodiversity. Jenna's work is helping us to ensure the success for all learners.

Allison Mahoney

**Vergennes Union High School
Addison Northwest School District**

Allison believes that all students can grow as learners if given the right opportunities in the classroom. She is true advocate not only for the students in her classroom, but also those in her morning meeting. Her room is always a flurry of activity in the morning because students know it is a welcoming space.

Melanie Maiola

**Twinfield Union School
Caledonia Central Supervisory Union**

Melanie just started her 47th year teaching first grade at Twinfield Union. She joined Twinfield as a 1975 graduate of UVM, and has never looked back. More than 1000 students have passed through her classroom over the years, and her skill and caring for students, along with her many gifts of support to her colleagues, continues to leave an indelible mark of quality on the communities that comprise Twinfield Union.

Lindsey Marcy

**Fair Haven Union Middle High School
Slate Valley Unified School District**

Lindsey Marcy is an engaging high school English teacher that has revitalized the FHUMHS 9th-grade curriculum in a way that challenges students while also building positive relationships. Lindsey's ability to meet each student at their unique learning level with a keen eye for social and emotional support places her amongst our best educators. Lindsey demonstrates teacher-leader skills that set a positive example for her colleagues.

Jason Marks

**Saint Johnsbury School
St. Johnsbury School District**

Jason Marks is always ready to jump in to help and genuinely cares about others. He makes an impact everywhere he goes and on everyone he meets. He runs his classroom in a way that everyone feels like they have something to teach and something to learn. Adults and students alike. His love for teaching is crystal clear in the way he greets their students to the way he is able to successfully support all of his students.

Tara Martin

**Middlebury Union High School
Addison Central School District**

Tara has been an incredible teacher, mentor, and colleague at Middlebury Union High School for 17 years. She brings classrooms to life with reenactments, humor, and interactive activities. Peers describe her as a spectacular colleague who works nonstop to keep her classes vibrant, communicate with families, and meet the needs of all students. Students say they love walking into her classroom because she always sees the best in people, and she will go out of her way to help them.

Tara McMahan

**Underhill Central School
Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District**

Tara exhibits everything you envision when thinking about what a school nurse and educator should be. She is calm, grounded and shows compassion to all students, families and staff. Her friendly and personable demeanor is easy to connect with. Many student's vie for Tara's attention because of the true love and care she provides them. She is extremely deserving of any and all recognition for her work.

Kelly Medor

**Missisquoi Valley Union Middle & High School
Missisquoi Valley School District**

Kelly Medor has a lead by example approach that not only dictates her professional life, but her personal one as well. Kelly brings consistent leadership, support, and compassion to the profession, her family, and her middle school team every day. She builds strong relationships with each of her students year after year through her clear expectations, thoughtful conversations, and sense of humor.

Anna Meehan

Essex Elementary School

Essex Westford Educational Community Unified Union School District

Anna Meehan is an outstanding teacher. Helping students learn and grow brings her joy. She is positive every day and ensures that ALL of her students are held to high expectations. She does this through using high quality teaching practices and building strong relationships with each student and their families. Anna builds a positive learning environment and creates a community of learners where being challenged to do your best is valued every day.

Angela Miller-Brown

Waterford Elementary

Caledonia Central Supervisory Union

Angela is an exemplary School Librarian. In addition to running an engaging library, she also teaches research skills to middle school students to prepare them for rigorous secondary education. Angela is the kind of teacher who responds favorably to all of the abstract challenges that come up in a busy elementary school, from finding time to help individual students, to helping teachers to plan their classroom activities, to organizing and running extra-curricular activities.

Melissa Mintzer

Winooski Middle School

Winooski School District

Melissa Mintzer is an incredibly dedicated middle school special educator who goes above and beyond every day for her students and families. She acts as a mentor to new special educators and consistently supports middle school teachers so that effective collaboration is occurring. A skilled educator who demonstrates flexibility and compassion on a daily basis, always keeping the focus on student needs, she is a true example of what it means to be an effective educator in our world at this time.

Krista Mock

Dothan Brook School

Hartford School District

Passionate, thoughtful, dedicated, innovative...Krista Mock is a team oriented special educator whose student centered approach helps each child reach their full potential. Krista is an advocate for all children and works in partnership with teachers and families to develop effective relationship-based programming.

Kim Moore

Mill River Union High School

Mill River Unified Union School District

Kim is a passionate middle school math teacher at Mill River. She is very well organized, works hard to develop relationships with all of her students, and holds the bar high for every student to achieve to their best. Kim goes above and beyond every day to meet every student where they are at and continuously works to help them improve not just as math students, but as students in general, and good citizens overall.

Heather Mulligan

**St. Johnsbury School
St. Johnsbury School District**

Heather embodies and practices the qualities of an ideal teacher - scholarship, leadership, character and service. She demonstrates the passion and enthusiasm for teaching in and outside the classroom and is creative and innovative in her teaching approach. She teaches, among others, kindness, fairness and respect and lives these virtues in and outside the classroom.

Barbara Nauton

**Wallingford Elementary School
Mill River Unified Union School District**

Barb Nauton has taught generations of Wallingford Elementary 6th graders. She is creative, funny and kind. She teaches math and reading in ways that strongly connect students to the outside world. Barb has an easy and affectionate way with her students, leading to lifelong bonds.

Lisa Newhard

**Alburgh Community Education Center
Grand Isle Supervisory Union**

Lisa is a long time PE teacher at Alburgh. She goes above and beyond to support all of her students. Students look forward to going to PE class because they know Lisa cares about them. Lisa makes physical activity fun and interesting. Lisa works to bring out the curiosity, creativity, and courageousness in students and helps to ensure they are capable of pursuing their aspirations in a diverse and ever changing world.

Colleen O'Brien

**Mt. Mansfield Union High School
Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District**

Ms. O'Brien has been a Social Studies teacher at MMU since 2000. In her time at MMU she has demonstrated the importance of being a consistent caring resource for her students. She continually strives to get to know her students and uses this to improve classroom instruction. She has also been a leader in MMU's continuous reflective self-study and the tweaking/overhauling of our curriculum that follows. Colleen O'Brien is a consummate professional who is a great representative of CougarNation!

Rebecca Osborne

**Riverside Middle School
Springfield School District**

Ms. Osborne works hard for her students to ensure they get the most out of their education while experiencing new learning moments. Rebecca is creative, engaging, and willing to go the extra mile for students and staff. She contributes generously to creating a school in which all want to be.

Christina Park

Burke Town School

Kingdom East School District

Whether creating classroom learning and reading centers, inviting parents to evening garden events, or encouraging reading and writing, Chrissy is an exceptional teacher on all levels. She supports her colleagues while at the same time holding high expectations of professional work. Her classrooms are seamless and fluid, each child learning every day. She loves children. She commits herself to her students, is flexible and versatile, and is the backbone of all programs at Burke Town School.

Marcy Perrotte

Bellows Free Academy

Franklin West Supervisory Union

Marcy is an outstanding special educator to work and collaborate with. She is a passionate advocate and exceptional leader among our staff. Marcy is caring and well loved by all students, especially the students she case manages everyday. She helps co teach and is an equal partner to teachers in the classroom. Marcy puts the time and effort in to meet the needs of the many students on her caseload as she communicates and fosters strong relationships with her families.

Danielle Peveril

Lamoille Union Middle School

Lamoille North Unified School District

Danielle Peveril's mathematics classroom comes with a good size helping of theater performance and a dash of classic rock to help students understand the foundational concepts of middle school mathematics. Using art to cement graphing and geometry basics and plant growth for data documentation and slope are all part of an average day in Ms. Peveril class. She builds in structure and differentiation to help support all learners and advocates for programs that increase inclusion for all.

Jessica Ramirez

Waits River Valley School

Orange East Supervisory Union

Jessica is the most outstanding and professional educator. Her ability to engage the whole child and provide a rigorous and meaningful learning space is impeccable. None would be as effective without the community, relationship, trust and genuine connections she makes with EVERY scholar she works with. Jessica loves teaching and wears that passion on her whole being every day. Jess has the highest expectations for herself and the scholars. Her classroom is magical- she is magical.

Lisa Ransom

Milton Elementary School

Milton Town School District

As an elementary special educator Lisa works tirelessly for all of our students. She connects with families and goes above and beyond to provide rigorous and accessible educational opportunities for students. As a colleague she is thorough and collaborative. She's the absolute best!

Samuel Rowley

**Green Mountain Technology & Career Center
Lamoille North Unified School District**

Sam serves as the instructor of the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems program at Green Mountain Tech, which is a working farm in Jeffersonville Vermont. On the farm Sam teaches his students to be caring and thoughtful stewards of the land, while providing them with the skills and knowledge to be successful in college, career, and in life. His passion for sustainable farming practices is only rivaled by his passion for teaching and mentoring his students. His students thrive as a result.

Chantelle Safford

**Echo Valley Community Schools
Central Vermont Supervisory Union**

Chantelle is an outstanding and supportive school nurse. As the SU's lead nurse, she has played an instrumental role in keeping families, students and staff informed and safe throughout the pandemic. Chantelle has gone above and beyond her school hour working day and often was called upon over the weekends to be at school or just helping out families and staff member maneuver different situations in hopes to keep everyone safe. She is always available to people to help them.

Brigitte Savard

**Montpelier High School
Montpelier Roxbury School District**

Brigitte goes above and beyond to make sure all students reach their potential and have meaningful opportunities for learning. She crafts creative lessons for her French classes and is dedicated to providing students real-world experience. You'll find her with her students on weekends, prepping, taking orders, and making and selling delicious crepes as part of La Bonne Crepe - a food cart teaching students real-life, transferrable skills while fund-raising for a language trip abroad.

Bob See

**Colchester Middle School
Colchester School District**

Bob See a CMS Special Educator always has a smile on his face and he is a fierce advocate for his students and their families. Whether it be leading ESY summer programs, leading the ski and board program, serving on the CMS leadership team, crunching data, or grinding it out with kids in math class, Bob makes school fun and engaging. He challenges teams to think reflectively, and leads them to action. Colchester Schools are lucky to have Bob as a member of our team.

Angela Selvaggio

**Harwood Union Middle School
Harwood Unified Union School District**

Ms. Selvaggio is viewed by colleagues as exceptional and by her students as amazing! Her open mindset, passion for learning, care for students, collaborative approach, creativity and student-centered focus continue to play a key role in the transforming of middle level students into curious, and inspired scientist. Her authenticity, spirit, infectious attitude and desire to engage learners is unmatched. She is most deserving of this award.

Sarah Shine

Windham Central Supervisory Union

Sarah is one of our Speech and Language Pathologists working in several schools throughout our supervisory union. Her level of commitment and dedication to students, colleagues, and her community is exemplary. Every action she makes is student-centered, data-driven, and considerate of the whole child. We are extremely fortunate and thankful to have the opportunity to work with her!

Judith Slack

Bradford Elementary School

Orange East Supervisory Union

Since 1993, Judy's growth mindset, kindness and high academic expectations and rigor are influence and inspire our school community. Her heart is found in everything she does from after school tutoring to taking new staff out into the community on the weekend to go kayaking. My favorite thing about Judy is demonstrated in a comment she made early this school year, "People have asked if I'm ready to retire. I'm not even close - I have too much still to learn!"

Susan Smiel

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union

Susan Smiel is committed to and demonstrates a strong sense of character, competence, creativity, and community each and every day. Susan possesses an outstanding combination of emotional and intellectual qualities. She collaborates to provide exceptional services that are best for children and practices fairness and equity in all of her decisions. At the core of all of her interactions are mutual respect and the ability to celebrate both individual and collective achievements.

Charles Supernaw

Albany Community School

Orleans Central Supervisory Union

Charles goes above and beyond his classroom duties and offers help to everyone! He interacts with students of all ages and does so in a developmentally appropriate way. He sends home monthly newsletters to communicate with parents, he plans engaging lessons, and he has become an outstanding teacher. He utilizes best practices for academics, social skills, etc. Charles brings a lot of expertise, knowledge, kindness, and humor to Albany Community School.

Emily Tanych

Bristol Elementary School

Mount Abraham Unified School District

Emily is an extremely knowledgeable and skilled SLP who is committed, first and foremost, to children, demonstrating a deep respect for them as individuals. She is masterful at working within a child's zone of proximal development and has goals and expectations that are not only focused on improving each child's skill set but, more importantly, improving their quality of life, now and in the future. Not only is Emily an extraordinary educator she is also a gem of a human being!

Addie Thompson

Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School

Mount Abraham Unified School District

Addie Thompson has taught English for nine years at Mt. Abraham Union Middle/High School, where she is known to students as a supportive teacher and mentor, and to fellow teachers as a sagacious friend and colleague. Her students can feel her passion for literature and for them as individuals. Her efforts to cultivate students' experiences extend outside classrooms to her role as Advisor for both Graduation and Project Grad. Addie is truly an asset to Mt. Abe.

Beth Thompson-Tucker

Currier Memorial School

Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union

Beth is a Special Education Teacher at Currier Memorial School in Danby, VT, servicing students in grades K-5. Beth began her educational career in 1980 as a preschool teacher, she then served as a Speech/Language therapist before she started her current role 8 years ago. Beth is completely dedicated to her students, her craft, and her school community. She never waivers from her commitment to meet student needs. Beth leads by example, challenges herself with ongoing new learning opportunities, then supports new learning of others in an incredibly kind, supportive, and meaningful way. Beth enriches our school community all around with her unyielding commitment to us all!

Cathleen Tumulty

Williamstown Middle High School

Central Vermont Supervisory Union

Cathy Tumulty has gone above and beyond as a special educator. She works late every night, fills her work day to the brim supporting any student, even ones not on her caseload, and takes on leadership responsibilities throughout the school. Cathy always has an open door for her colleagues, and she truly just wants to help, and this is why she is outstanding and why we are so proud to have her!

Cheryl Vincent

Orange Southwest Unified School District

It is an honor to recommend Cheryl Vincent for the Outstanding Educator Award. She is the definition of a skilled, effective, and valued speech and language pathologist. Her knowledge and professionalism coupled with her passion for educating all students and supporting all teachers easily places her in the outstanding educator category. Cheryl is one of those teachers that you pray you never lose; rising to the occasion and providing research-based instruction and input every step of the way.

Paula Whitehead

Highgate Elementary School

Missisquoi Valley School District

Paula Whitehead is an incredible Kindergarten teacher and a strong advocate for her students. Not only does she set high expectations for her students, but she understands how to build strong relationships with students and families to best support students growth. Mrs. Whitehead is data driven, uses that data to inform her instruction, and is one that other teachers turn to for guidance. She has served the community of Highgate for nearly 30 years and with this, she is highly respected.

Karen Witalec-Krupa

Bellows Free Academy

Franklin West Supervisory Union

Karen is a consummate professional. She plans for relevant and rigorous lessons in her classes to make them interesting and current. Karen builds relationships with students and helps all students, even those who struggle, to make progress. Karen does an amazing job of engaging students and differentiating her curriculum. Her work with RJA and the LGBTQ+ group is invaluable and courageous. Karen is a collaborator and a great go-to person in the high school faculty.

Vergennes Union Elementary Physical Education Teacher Named 2023 Vermont Teacher of the Year

VERGENNES, Vt. – The Vermont Agency of Education is pleased to announce that Robyn Newton, a physical education teacher at Vergennes Union Elementary School is the 2023 Vermont Teacher of the Year. Ms. Newton will begin her tenure as Vermont Teacher of the Year on January 1, 2023.

Also recognized are the 2023 Vermont Teacher of the Year Distinguished Finalists, Abbie Bowker, visual art teacher at Champlain Valley Union High School, Amy Clapp, upper elementary teacher at Salisbury Community School, and Aziza Malik, upper elementary teacher at Champlain Elementary School.

Robyn Newton has been a physical education teacher at Vergennes Union Elementary School for 27 years. At Vergennes UES, Ms. Newton focuses on providing a physical education experience that is joyful and educational, and develops the skills and confidence needed for healthy development and lifelong fitness. Ms. Newton has built an interdisciplinary program that connects students to their communities and builds on their learning in the classroom, on the playing field, and beyond.

“Robyn Newton exemplifies what makes Vermont educators special,” said Secretary of Education Dan French. “From using the Olympics to teach students about sportsmanship, competition, world affairs and intercultural competency, to her efforts to bring more funding to physical education and nutrition programs in her district, Ms. Newton excels in teaching, shows leadership through an interdisciplinary and collaborative mindset, and, most importantly, she builds excitement for learning in and out of the classroom.”

Ms. Newton’s accomplishments at UES include leading a multi-disciplinary unit on the Olympics that touches every grade and every subject at the Addison County elementary school. Each class chooses a country to represent, and students learn about their country through lessons in reading, writing and math. Before the games, students see videos of real Olympic events, and in PE they learn and practice the related skills. Each student chooses four events in which to compete.

As Ms. Newton wrote in her application for Vermont Teacher of the Year “There is nothing better than watching peers cheer each other on or hearing a younger student shout “I won” when they receive their bronze medal...This unit embodies how and why I teach: to create enjoyable experiences that develop new skills, build confidence and promote healthy movement and joy.”

“Robyn understands the importance of possibility,” said Vergennes Union Elementary School Principal Matt DeBlois. “Personalization of physical education allows students to understand that their own growth should not be compared to the person next to them, but rather the way that individual students have performed in the past. Students in physical education at VUES write themselves goals, reflect on their learning in their physical education journals, and attempt to beat their self-designed goals.”

Ms. Newton's leadership has extended to securing funding to expand her district's Physical Education offerings in a game-changing way. In 2008 she wrote and was awarded the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) grant for over \$900,000. Among other programmatic updates, the district built three ropes courses, including a high ropes course to improve social emotional skills such as self-confidence, trust, and teamwork, and outfitted each school with equipment to support lifetime activities such as snowshoes, cross country skis, ice skates, rollerblades, tennis equipment, disc golf courses, indoor climbing walls, exercise bikes, ellipticals, treadmills and heart rate monitors.

"Robyn is an extraordinary educator," said Addison Northwest School District Superintendent Sheila Soule. "Her commitment to the health and well-being of others extends far beyond the classroom- Robyn has had a remarkable impact on the entire community through her work on the Vergennes Recreation Committee and district Wellness Team. She is an inspiration to others through her positivity and optimism. She is very deserving of this recognition and we could not be more proud of her accomplishments."

As Vermont's Teacher of the Year, Ms. Newton will focus on the importance of physical activity, fitness, and play, both to student's learning and academic achievement, and to their social-emotional well-being. Her platform is grounded in research that demonstrates that students do better academically, both when they are fit, healthy and active, and have the opportunity for unstructured play during the school day. This "brain break" allows students to synthesize what they have learned and return to the classroom refreshed. Physical activity and adequate play make students more creative, independent thinkers and learners, and happier overall. As Vermont schools recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, high quality physical education and opportunities for unstructured play and "brain breaks" are critical to student success and wellbeing.

About the Teacher of the Year Program

Since 1964, the Agency of Education has recognized outstanding Vermont teachers through the Vermont Teacher of the Year award. As the 2023 Vermont Teacher of the Year, Ms. Newton will serve as an advocate for the teaching profession, education and students. She is also Vermont's candidate for the 2023 National Teacher of the Year award, sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Ms. Newton will represent Vermont next spring for the National Teacher of the Year program, typically held in Washington D.C.

Robyn Newton will also be honored at the University of Vermont's Outstanding Teacher Day, which will be held in November. For 40 years, UVM has annually recognized outstanding teachers throughout the state. The event honors educators from each supervisory union or school district, which are invited to nominate one teacher at the elementary or middle school level, one at the secondary level, and one at the technical center level.

About the Vermont Agency of Education

The Agency of Education implements state and federal laws, policies, and regulations to ensure all Vermont learners have equitable access to high-quality learning opportunities. The Agency accomplishes this mission through the provision of its leadership, support, and oversight of Vermont's public education system.

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Special Thanks To:

Vermont Agency of Education

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UVM Department of Education

University Event Services at UVM

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All the family and friends of our honored teachers!

42nd Vermont Outstanding Educator Day

Wednesday, November 9, 2022