

## 2018 Vermont Outstanding Teacher Bios

### Kim Abdo

#### **Canaan Schools**

Kim is the Reading Interventionist/Coach at Canaan Schools. Kim works with small groups, one on one and in the classrooms to support those students in improving their reading skills. Kim developed our 5 week Summer program with Literacy and Math embedded throughout the day, she assists another staff member with our week long Summer Humanities Camp for Middle Schoolers, She is the 8th grade Class advisor, a member of the Leadership Team, a mentor for the Math Interventionist/Coach and is always willing to help out whenever and wherever it is needed. She is a valued member of the Canaan Staff, who spreads positivity wherever she is in the buildings, we are lucky to have her on board.

### Heidi Aranjo

#### **Milton Elementary School**

Heidi Aranjo is an exemplar teacher and team mate. Her students respect her as their teacher and friend. Heidi has been a grade level literacy representative, and a Curriculum Teacher Leader. She works consistently on building trusting relationships. Her infectious laughter is a gift to everyone.

### James Aschmann

#### **Arlington Memorial High School**

In a time of focus on student emotional awareness James is at the fore front to change the way we interact with our students. It is an admirable trait of James who always displayed this type of influence in his classroom to transition this passion to the whole school.

### Jane Boucher

#### **Berlin Elementary School**

Jane Boucher's caring nature, infectious smile, and dedication to her students helps to remind all who work with her why we have chosen to become educators. She will always look for the positive in everyone, and help them to see that positivity in themselves.

### Keri Bristow

#### **Woodstock Union Middle and High School**

Ms. Bristow is so deserving of this award because she doesn't just try to connect to her students in the classroom, she tries to connect with them out there in the world. She is one of the most supportive and loving people I know. She believes so much in me as a person & student." ~Grace Vollers.

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### Kaitlyn Bryant

#### **St. Johnsbury School**

Kaitlyn Bryant is a passionate advocate of the music department and believes that it should be a part of all students' lives. Kaitlyn has been able to engage students from all walks of life in the band and theater department.

She has ensured that a variety of students have the ability to participate in yearly performances. Kaitlyn has the ability to bring in students from all corners of the school to find purpose within music and musical performances.

### Annick Cooper

#### **Rick Marcotte Central School**

Annick Cooper is a colleague who our staff look to, informally and formally, for kindness and advice. She teaches us how to help our students be successful. She teaches us how to be advocates for our students. She holds professionalism to a high standard. Annick has recently chaired the change from EST to MTSS. She accepted this position with an enthusiasm to help students receive the help they need in order to grow. She has facilitated many meetings through this position with parents and teachers of all grade levels. Again, Annick's professionalism shines through.

### Laura Coro

#### **Leicester Central School**

Laura Coro is the consummate lifelong learner who embodies the best of teaching. Always growing, she embraced the tenets of Expeditionary Learning in the past two years, stepping in as a leader and model for her colleagues at Leicester Central School on how to engage students in their learning.

### Jeff Dcales

#### **Stowe Elementary School**

Jeff Dcales has been a primary grades teacher at Stowe Elementary School for the past 22 years, teaching Kindergarten for 13 of those years. He has served on numerous school and district committees, providing a level of support for both students and colleagues that is truly admirable.

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### Marcie Davey

#### **Monkton Central School**

It is our distinct pleasure to introduce Marcie Davey as MAUSD's Elementary Outstanding Teacher for 2018. For the past six years has exemplified leadership, professionalism and advocacy for students and their families. The root of her work and advocacy are grounded with genuine care and understanding, a warm smile, and a positive attitude. Marcie is renowned for her attention to detail, high expectations for students and for her own professional growth. She is a committed member on the school leadership team and this year she will be a new teacher mentor supporting the district in building capacity to meet the needs of all learners.

### Robert DeCicco

#### **Milton Middle School**

Robert DeCicco is a Science Teacher at Milton Middle School. In the 11 years, he has taught in Milton, he has demonstrated the qualities of a lifelong learner; he continues to adapt his instructional practices along with advocating for all members of our learning community.

### Louisa Driscoll

#### **St. Johnsbury School**

Louisa Driscoll is a dedicated and passionate advocate of the St. Johnsbury School. As a school nurse she tirelessly works to support students' health and nutritional needs while actively seeking leadership opportunities that will make the school better for her students and colleagues.

### Lisa Edge

#### **Tinmouth Elementary School**

Lisa Edge, from Tinmouth Elementary, epitomizes what it means to be an educator in Vermont. Her love for children, learning, the Vermont landscape and her great sense of adventure sets her aside as one of our very best. Lisa represents the Mill River School District well in all that she does.

### Michelle Edmunds

#### **Fisher Elementary School**

Michelle Edmunds brings consistent best teachings practices to her students every day that reach all learners at every level. She is a compassionate and knowledgeable teacher who enjoys passing on her love for learning, Michelle encourages her students to be active learners who are as engaged in the classroom as she is every day.

## 2018 Vermont Outstanding Teacher Bios

### Kelly Emerson

#### **Blue Mountain Union School**

Kelly is involved school-wide at Blue Mountain. She goes from teaching kindergarten to advising high school students, to training staff at the drop of a hat all while making each individual feel safe, supported, and valued. Kelly is constantly striving to make all her teaching practices even better.

### Gretchen Farfaglia

#### **Grand Isle School**

Gretchen is an enthusiastic, kind hearted, student centered middle school English Language Arts teacher at Grand Isle School who is also is a vocal cheerleader for students who really need someone to notice them, motivate them, and nurture them.

### Ann Faris

#### **Manchester Elementary School**

Ann Faris is a phenomenal Spanish teacher at Manchester Elementary Middle School. Her innovative and engaging Spanish program makes her classroom an exciting place to learn! Her student Recycling Squad has made it their mission to make us a green school! Her impact is tremendous.

### Amber Farnham

#### **Enosburg Falls Middle School**

Amber has been an enthusiastic leader in NGSS implementation, always designing engaging labs and inquiry tasks for students to explore new ideas. She skillfully guides student thinking through questioning and provides opportunities for student discourse. Amber is an exceptional teacher and leader.

### Suzanne Farrell

#### **Elm Hill School**

Suzanne provides her students with innovative stations where they virtually unlimited opportunity for choice in learning. Every student creates a portfolio each year which she manages with over 250 students. She organizes and carries out our "Junk Band" opportunity for our 2nd graders every year.

### Joanna Fowler

#### **Twinfield Union School**

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Joanna Fowler is Twinfield's nominee as UVM Teacher of the Year. She has been the teacher-leader most responsible for Twinfield achieving its goal of graduating the Class of 2018 with a proficiency-based diploma. Experience and open-mindedness are her greatest qualities!

### Stacey Fox

#### **Peacham Elementary School**

Stacey Fox is a talented educator who has a natural way of engaging students in PE and Health. Ms. Fox makes learning fun and students look forward to her classes. She has a calm demeanor, is professional and reliable. She is an outstanding educator, always seeking ways to perfect her practice.

### Becky French

#### **Marion W. Cross School**

Becky French solves problems with equanimity and intelligence. She has earned the respect of her colleagues because she has good ideas, follows through with her ideas, and creates her ideas with a focus on what is best for her students' learning. In addition, Becky willingly takes on leadership roles when she thinks they are most necessary. This year she was an instrumental proponent of Global Play Day which we incorporated into our April schedule. Finally, Becky uses her writing skills to give students a singular learning experience: she adapted the book, counting on Grace, into a play a few years ago, and it continues to be a delightful culminating experience to students' study of the book of the same name and their understanding of child labor in Vermont.

### Lila Gilbreath

#### **Springfield High School**

Lila faces the daily challenge of engaging many students who have written themselves off as "bad at math," yet she approaches her work with a balance of ownership and positivity. A solution-focused thinker, Lila brings a unique blend of realism and vision to the high school's instructional team.

### J.B. (John) Hilferty

#### **U-32 Middle and High School**

JB rarely complains and is always there when he is needed. He shows true compassion for students, teachers, and staff. Everyone feels happy around JB. He is fun loving and always has a smile on his face.

## 2018 Vermont Outstanding Teacher Bios

### Michael Hoffman

#### **Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School**

Mike is a caring educator who not only serves the students on his caseload, but gets to know all students on his team to provide a rich, collective learning experience striving for full inclusion. He is a thoughtful visionary with a distinct perspective who plays a vital role in student success.

### Karla Kane

#### **Bellows Free Academy St. Albans**

Karla Kane is an outstanding teacher; whose students are the center of her focus every day. Her ability to build strong relationships with her students is always evident in her interactions with them. Her personalized approach toward each student is remarkable.

### April Lane

#### **Irasburg Village School**

April Lane taught middle school math at Irasburg Village School for 8 years. She has an excellent rapport with her students, constantly searching for ways to make her teaching more interesting and informative. April is a leader among her colleagues and will make a great administrator.

### Barbara Larvey

#### **Isle La Motte School**

Barb Larvey is a distinguished physical educator who selflessly gives of her time and talents to inspire and encourage healthy lifestyles. Her efforts positively permeate the Isle LaMotte School, community and the Grand Isle Supervisory Union. She is a leader, a role model, has been a mentor, and the driving force in promoting lifetime sport activities in our region.

### Catherine Lavigne

#### **John F. Kennedy School**

This is Catherine's 7th year as SLP in the Winooski School District. Not only is Catherine an outstanding SLP, she is a mentor and coach to her colleagues in Winooski. Catherine is also looked to for her expertise in the assessment of dual language learners of all ages across Vermont and beyond.

### Jessica Litchfield

#### **Berkshire Elementary School**

Jessica is a VMI graduate, and is currently a presidential award finalist for VT. Her skills in the classroom are masterful and second to none. Her professional collaboration and expertise have had a profoundly powerful impact on staff in her school and throughout the SU.

## 2018 Vermont Outstanding Teacher Bios

### Kelly Locke

#### **Hazen Union High School**

Kelly Locke is a special educator who works collaboratively with her fellow colleagues. A parent shared that Kelly was responsible for helping her son stay in school, become independent and no longer required a 1-1 support. "She's incredible."

### Ashley Longe

#### **Sheldon Elementary School**

Hard-working, fun-loving, and modest; Ashley is always open to new learning. She jumped at the chance to be involved in our Teacher Leader Academy and pilot instructional rounds before even knowing what would be expected of her. Ashley's students love her and know she will never give up on them.

### Steve Madden

#### **Camels Hump Middle School**

Mr. Madden often starts a conversation with school administration with "So, did I tell"..... These stories from misadventure to grand achievement always have a common theme - a student's success or obstacle overcome and are replete with his passion for learning and adventure.

### Sarah Malcolm

#### **Champlain Valley Union High School**

In the words of her colleagues, Sarah inspires her students to reach past what they think they are capable of achieving. She works tirelessly to ensure that her students earn a deep understanding of the content and the skills to explore chemistry. Her classes are both challenging and playful.

### Louisa McCann-Ledbetter

#### **White River School**

Louisa is a special educator who is always researching alternative ways to support her students and spends countless hours implementing programs to help her students thrive. She is assigned our most challenging students and excels in developing relationships with her students and their families.

## 2018 Vermont Outstanding Teacher Bios

### Guy Merolle

#### **Castleton Village School**

Guy Merolle is a teacher that embodies the energy, natural curiosity, and the challenges working with middle school students. Students are engaged and committed in Mr. Merolle's classes, because they are committed to him.

### Tiffany Michael

#### **Crossett Brook Middle School**

Tiffany Michael is a Middle School Teacher at Crossett Brook Middle School. Tiffany is the all-around teaching package, and in a nutshell, she makes all that she comes in contact with smarter, faster.

### Sheryl Miller

#### **Westminster Schools**

Sheryl took 3 students who never engaged in school and turned them into students who believed in themselves and progress. She helped the entire class improve in benchmark assessments, many of them earning proficient and exceeding proficient for the first time.

### Samantha Mishkit

#### **Spaulding High School**

When nominating Sam Mishkit for teacher of the year, one staff member wrote: "Sam is an innovative teacher whose combination of creativity, insight, hard work and discipline make for a true professional, but her care and enjoyment of students further allows for them to flourish.

### Bethany Morrissey

#### **Salisbury Community School**

Bethany is enthusiast, creative, engaging and offers a positive learning environment for her students. She really gets to know her students, their strengths and struggles. She organizes numerous activities in school and beyond to inspire kids and promoting active lifestyles. She is a gift to SCS.



## 2018 Vermont Outstanding Teacher Bios

### Melissa Muzzy

#### **Vergennes Union High School**

Melissa has been a Middle School science teacher since 2000 at VUHS. She makes kids realize that they are special. She contributes greatly to overarching ideas, scheduling, and so many other facets of our school and its climate. Her creative and thorough units are things that students will remember.

### Alexis Nelson

#### **Hartford High School**

Alexis has been an integral member of our teaching staff. While acting as an adviser, history teacher, Eye teacher, and member of the school's Development Council would be enough for most, Alexis has also been one of the driving forces in the school's recent transformations.

### John Olson

#### **Otter Valley Union High School**

John Olson has built strong relationships with student in his classes, as well as in the hallways and cafeterias. John's constant is the same high level of investment and enthusiasm he brings to each lesson, as well as the annual school wide walk, when the student body follows the lead of Mr. Olson and his students on a sunny, spring day.

### Ryan O'Malley

#### **Randolph Technical Career Center**

We at RTCC believe Ryan has demonstrated outstanding teaching and leadership because he builds a positive community within his class and our school. He is a thoughtful contributor to various committees, and he mentors other teachers in order to improve the quality of education at RTCC.

### Garreth Parizo

#### **Middlebury Union Middle School**

Teaching is Garreth's passion and it is evident by the nominations submitted on her behalf. She is patient, understanding, direct and very caring toward her students. A student wrote that she is "One of the kindest/nicest teachers at MUMS."

## 2018 Vermont Outstanding Teacher Bios

### Melissa Patterson

#### **Stafford Technical Center**

Melissa Patterson is more than an English teacher to the students at Stafford Technical Center! She teaches, but just as important she guides her students to achieve the skills, standards, and certifications that will lead to life and career success. She is one of the first, always, to go the extra mile to support STC and its students. From organizing skills USA to leading NEASC accreditation, she is serving Every Student, Every Day!

### Anja Pfeffer

#### **Hazen Union High School**

Anja Pfeffer is more than a foreign language teacher. She puts in incredible amounts of extra time during the summer working with students, specifically girls and equine therapy. She puts in incredible amounts of over time, in going to events, helping students, attending non-mandatory meetings, etc.

### Amanda Pierce

#### **Barre City Elementary and Middle School**

When you walk into Amanda Pierce's grade 3/4 classroom, you immediately can tell that each of her children feels valued, happy, and like they belong there. You see her amazing enthusiasm, her finely tuned, highly engaging teaching strategies, and her impressive level of student engagement.

### Sarah Pierson

#### **Charlotte Central School**

Sarah Pierson teaches Spanish and French at Charlotte Central School. Her students experience a rigorous and engaging world language education. Sarah recently added Spanish to her repertoire, modeling life-long learning through coursework in Oaxaca, Mexico and hiking the El Camino trail in Spain.

### Mark Rampone

#### **Mettawee Community School**

Mark Rampone has been a teacher at the Mettawee Community since 1999. He has taught grades 3-6. Mark is a devoted teacher who is energetic, engaging, and fun! Mark spends time building close relationships with his students and he works hard to support the diverse learners.

## 2018 Vermont Outstanding Teacher Bios

### Peter Roach

#### **Mill River Union High School**

Peter Roach is dedicated to his students, colleagues, and profession. He inspires and coaches his students to such a high level of excellence that they are frequently recognized by people outside of the school for their efforts. Peter is incredibly deserving as a UVM Teacher of the Year!

### Linda Rouse-Turner

#### **Missisquoi Valley Union High School**

Linda Rouse-Turner is the epitome of collaboration. She consistently communicates with team members, families, students, and school officials. She addresses problems and obstacles and develops creative solutions. She is a true role model for students and staff alike.

### Sandy Sherburne

#### **Waterford Elementary School**

Mrs. Sherburne displays professionalism, kindness, empathy in her practice. She is a firm believer that every child can learn and grow and works tirelessly to meet the needs of all the children she serves. The school is a better place due to her relentless desire to be the best educator she can be.

### Christina Smith

#### **Center for Technology, Essex High School**

Chrissy is also one who contributes regularly and with enthusiasm as a teacher leader. She can be counted on to lead conversations about what is in the best interests of students; to coordinate work with others; and to pitch in to do what needs to be done within the organization.

### Nancy Smith

#### **Essex High School**

Nancy Smith is a successful science teacher at Essex High School. Nancy creates high impact learning opportunities for her students both in and out of the classroom, on weekdays and on weekends, and during the school year and beyond.

### Ryanne Spaulding

#### **Northwest Primary School**

Ryanne Spaulding makes kids' days better! Every day she has served as a Special Educator at Northwest Primary School has been focused on student needs and creating positive relationships with families and their children. Ryanne exemplifies the Rutland City Public Schools' vision, "Every Student, Every Day!"

## 2018 Vermont Outstanding Teacher Bios

### Jane Spina

#### **Warren Elementary School**

Jane Spina is an extraordinary teacher. She inspires students to have high expectations for themselves and to follow their dreams. She is beloved by her students and goes the extra mile every day for our families. She gets outstanding results teaching literacy to all students. Congratulations, Jane.

### Lisa Stapleton

#### **Windham Northeast Supervisory Union, Early Education Center**

Lisa Stapleton has worked tirelessly for 20 years with our youngest students and their families. She has a deep knowledge of child development, plentiful energy, and boundless positivity. She is an advocate for students, families, and colleagues. Lisa Stapleton is an outstanding teacher.

### Antonette (Tosh) Stickney

#### **West Rutland School**

Antonette (Tosh) Stickney is a physical education and health teacher who has served West Rutland School students for 36 years. She has coached and led many school wide activities which engage our students such as girls on the run and jump rope for the heart. She is creative and engaging and truly committed to the West Rutland School Community.

### Matthew Tatro

#### **Mt. Abraham Union Middle and High School**

Matt Tatro has been the instrumental music teacher at Mt. Abe High School since 2000 and his dedication to the school has been truly outstanding. When we think back on our high school days, if we're lucky we have a teacher or two who stand out in our memory. Matt Tatro is one of those teachers who students will remember long after their high school days are over.

### Emily Therrien

#### **Randolph Union High School**

Emily is a teacher-leader who brings her skills as a listener and facilitator to classrooms, teacher teams and student groups. This year she teaches two new courses, including AP US History and a project-based learning class focused on racial justice.

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### Hayden Thomsen

#### **Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District (Hannaford Career Center)**

This year, Hayden led workshops for his peers and also proposed a creative scheduling solution that accommodated 10 additional students in a new section of Auto 101. His vision, creativity, flexibility, and commitment place learning at the center of our collective, professional practice.

### Stacy Valcourt

#### **Ferrisburgh Central School**

Stacy Valcourt has been giving her heart and soul to educating students with learning challenges for 18 years as part of the ANWSD community. Stacy always puts the needs of her students first. She has been an outstanding mentor and role model for peers and students, she also brings infectious energy and enthusiasm every day to the ANWSD community. She inspires her students and colleagues to be their best that they can be and is always willing to help others and continue to try new methods to meet the needs of all learners.

### Rosemarie West

#### **Morristown Elementary School**

Rosemarie West has served the Morristown Elementary School community for many years and in many capacities. During the 2017-2018 school year, she took the lead on the Lucy Calkins' Units of Study in Writing and Units of Study in Reading, a whole new approach to teaching literacy at MES.

### Andrea Wheeland

#### **Winooski Middle School**

Andrea Wheeland, is a dynamic Middle School ELL teacher for 12 years in Winooski. Her classroom expectations are high, supports are individualized, & a culture for learning is cultivated. Andrea is a committed professional having served as a mentor teacher & member of the WMHS Leadership Team.

### Lorraine Wilkins

#### **Middletown Springs Elementary School**

Lorraine Wilkins, Middletown Springs Elementary School Teacher has taught in many different capacities. In addition to capably fulfilling the role of classroom teacher, she has been an advocate for student needs as a Title 1 teacher and interventionist and leader of the student council program.

## 2018 Vermont Outstanding Teacher Bios

### Benjamin Worthing

#### **Fair Haven Union High School**

In 2000/2001 he was hired as an IA, a year later was awarded FHUHS IA of the year, and in 2003 Mr. Worthing became a science teacher where he has enjoyed - and his students have benefited - ever since. In addition to being an exceptional science teacher Mr. Worthing is a volunteer, multiple grant winner, class advisor, mentor, college professor, coach, and father.

### Sandra Young

#### **Albany Community School**

Sandra Young teaches at the Albany Community School. She is an accomplished second career educator. Before entering public education, she ran a very successful licensed daycare which gave her a love for teaching, and rapport with parents. Next year, she will be a special educator.