

Morning**First Generation/ Working Class Initiative**

Presenter: Kelley Beckwith, Director of Academic Services Castleton University

Linda Olson, Professor of Sociology Castleton University

The workshop will highlight an initiative we are starting at Castleton that we hope to start at all VSC campuses. The goal of the initiative is to make social class visible in the hopes of creating a matrix of support for first generation/working class students (FGWC). Class, for the most part, is invisible in the United States. Everyone is “middle class”. By making class visible, we are acknowledging the struggles of FGWC college students. Many of these students have to work harder to be in college, to stay in college and ultimately to graduate from college. Most FGWC students are paying for most if not all of their education. This initiative acknowledges that some FGWC students might come from families who don’t understand their struggles; some might not even support their decision to go to college. Our intent is to create a supportive environment of faculty and staff who are also FGWC. Our goal is to improve retention of FGWC students by creating a safe space where they could talk about issues they are facing with someone who understands. We would share ways other campuses could also create this type of initiative. While the intent of our project is retention of college students, we believe this initiative could be modified for high schools and middle schools to actually encourage FGWC students to consider college. Since 40% of high school students do not go on to some form of higher education in Vermont, programming like this could go a long way to make FGWC students see college as an option.

**Morning:
different.****Early College Programs: The same... yet**

Presenter: Sue Polen & Laurie Berryman

Confused about how the Vermont ECP programs differ? Many of us are! There are many programs that fall under ‘early college’ yet there are many differences- some are fairly major while other differences are more about the details. Hear how ECPs compare in terms of programming, necessary documentation, support systems when in the programs, finances during and after, etc. so that you can share this information with students throughout high school.

Morning:**“College Bullying: What Can We Do?”**

Presenter: Stef Donati, Southern Vermont College

A facilitated discussion about some of the many issues related to student bullying on college campuses. In addition to learning more about the extent of the problem participants will accumulate strategies/ideas for dealing with college bullying issues.

Morning: UB Grant Writing Roundtable

Presenter: Jennifer Jones

UB grant writing roundtable. Share information and best practices for writing an Upward Bound grant.

Morning: “ A look at the Organic Fertilizer that keeps Vermont TRIO Educational Opportunities Flourishing.”

Presenter: Mary Schell Whalen (Director, Up for Learning)
Marti Kingsley (VSAC Outreach Counselor)

It is time for students to speak out about their own learning. Especially in Vermont, where new laws call for redesigning education, it's essential for young people to be part of the conversation and part of the process as schools change. It is equally important for counselors and educators at all levels to know what the implications are as we serve students in this changing landscape.

However, despite this promise, we know that the changes in how students are educated could create a greater equity gap, perhaps the biggest potential discrepancy being by socioeconomic variables. We realize some students take full advantage of flexible pathways while some do not based on doubts about their capacity as learners and available resources. We also know that their doubts mirror the perceptions of their teachers & others.

Hear *Our Time*, a song written, composed and performed by Vermont students to express their hope for change. (Casting a Twinfield TRIO student).

This workshop is **not** about organic farming yet it is very appropriate for organic farmers.

Afternoon: Gender Identity Awareness

Presenter: Stacey King, VSAC Outreach

This workshop is an overview of the components of gender identity, current terminology, and the challenges faced by the population that identifies as transgender or gender non-conforming. We will look at workplace and college settings in particular to brainstorm ways we may unintentionally discriminate or

offend, and how we can address some of the issues we identify.

Afternoon: Reach Higher, UpNext, Vermont Advantage(70% by 2025), and FAFSA Completion – A discussion on leveraging the campaigns and sharing what’s working with each other.

Presenter: Patrick Leduc, Vice President, VSAC

There are a growing number of campaigns to encourage students and adults to pursue education after High School. The session hopes to highlight the major programs and how they are going about their work to lead a group discussion on the challenges and opportunities as well as the sharing of each others tried and true practices, the sharing of new interventions that show promise and the brainstorming of new ideas as a group.

Afternoon: Coaching the New SAT

Presenter: Tim Ulrich

Although the SAT has been newly designed we have found that most of the old strategies are still working. Tim Ulrich, math educator and Upward Bound SAT prep teacher will take attendees through the format of the test and what he does to increase students’ scores.

Afternoon: Self-Authored Advising as a Means to Self-Driven, Independent Students

Presenter: Jen Garrett-Ostermiller and Angie Albeck, CCV SSS

Self-authorship theory provides a framework for an advisor to be “good company” for students, drawing forward the inherent curiosity and independence that lie buried beneath the protective parts of students. Participants will learn the phases of self-authorship and walk away with practical tools for effective advising conversations, particularly related to helping students explore and define their academic and life path.

Afternoon: Fish Can’t Climb Trees...

Presenter: Robin Goodall

An exploration and conversation about limitations... With a brief look at disability law, and some activities designed to heighten awareness about environmental barriers. An awareness of how certain conditions interact with the environment, creating barriers to independence.