



the cube

A Publication of the North Country Career Center

February 2006 Vol. 3 No.1

*STUDENTS OF TODAY ** WORKFORCE OF TOMORROW*

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 2006

Dear Fellow Voters,

Last spring the voters in our community endorsed by a 5 to 1 margin a plan to expand and improve the North Country Career Center. The vote authorized the creation of expanded Career Center Academies to meet the needs of our secondary education students, and the adult community of students in this area.

The first vote endorsed the Career Center expansion to take place at the current North Country Career Center location. This expansion is a 32,000 square foot addition at North Country Career Center and a refurbishment of the almost 40-year old existing Career Center. It also includes a 7,500 square foot land lab building located in Derby. The land lab will house three academies: horticulture and agriculture; forestry; and heavy equipment operation and maintenance.

Since the May authorization vote, our Workforce Development Committee has studied the best options in terms of cost and value for the tax dollar on planning funding for the Center. This financial plan for the creation of this much needed facility is what the upcoming vote on Town Meeting Day is about.

The total cost of the new Career Center will be \$18.7 million. Of this amount, \$12.4 million is already pledged and committed by the State. The buildings will cost \$16.7 million with an additional \$2 million for equipment, fixtures and furnishings.

With \$12.4 million coming from the State, we will need to finance the remaining \$6.3 million through a bond vote. Frankly, the project has minimal impact on taxes because so much is offset by the tax abatement program, especially for fixed income residents. Taking into account these abatement programs, the State support is in excess of \$14 million.

We hope you will agree that this project is very needed by our community and we have the best financing plan available in Vermont today. It really is time to vote **YES** and get this project built so that our young people and adult learners can benefit from this great educational opportunity.

If you have further questions, the committee members are ready to answer them so please let us help you get the information you need. Call Bill Stenger at 327-2222 or e-mail at <bstenger@jaypeakresort.com>.

Sincerely,

Workforce Development Committee:

Tom Bailey
Tino Brandstetter
Bill Stenger, Chairman

Richard Baraw
Tim Donovan
June Rosenberg

David Blodgett
Patrick Martell
Karen Weller

P.S. The vote is March 7th on Town Meeting Day. If you need an absentee ballot please contact your town clerk. Thank you for your support on this very important opportunity.

More information on page 3

The North Country Career Center Programs

We are going through our ritual spring scheduling for the school year 2007. This year, in compliance with state regulations, any student who wants to be in one of our programs must go through the application process. The application is stapled to the North Country registration form and the application will be given to the Lake Region students by their school counselor. Our programs are for Juniors and Seniors, 3 blocks over two days (2 blocks one Day and 1 block the other day). All of our programs have Industry Recognized Credentials available for the students to attain. Most of our programs have a close connection with one or more post high school training sites. Each of our programs have a Student Leadership Organization which offers students an opportunity to do community service, receive scholarship, and compete at the state and national level in program related competition. Program information can be reviewed on the website for North Country.

The Green Industry
Landscape & Greenhouse Management
Automotive Technology
Building Trades
Natural Resources
Welding & Metal Fabrication
Culinary Arts
Health Careers
Marketing
CADD/Mechanical & Architectural
Business Technology
Computer Arts & Animation
Internet Technology
Computer & Networking Technology
Satellite Programs @ Lake Region
Outdoor Power Mechanics (@LRU)
Health Careers
Building Trades

Do Our Students like to be with us...

Katherine Gosselin says: "The Career Center has given me the opportunity to prepare for the future through classes that develop the skills I need for my future."

Kate Donovan says: "The Career Center has not only helped me to decide what career I want to pursue but it has also helped me to develop the skills that I will need to achieve my goals."

Carrie Pothier says: "I think that the Career Center programs give me a good head start on what to expect in future working experiences."

Kelsie Percy says: "The NCCC has opened up my eyes to help me see what is out there."

Sadie Collins says: "I really appreciate the teaching methods that teachers use. In my opinion, it is easier to learn by hands-on learning and we concentrate on this method."

Anonymous: "The Career Center is the reason I come to school. Without it, a lot of doors would be left unopened."

Rene Wells says: "We'll landscape your home; just talk to our Landscape teacher, Mr. Byrne. We need a classroom because it is cold in the greenhouse."

Richie Gatison says: "I'm in the Career Center because I want to pursue a career in the Automotive field. I like my class; it's fun and interesting."

Alicia Wheeler says: "The Career Center has helped me learn how the real working world works. It has given me the information I need to graduate and move forward in my life."

Emma Gunn says: "I like being in the Career Center because I am given opportunities to go to places around the country to further my education which has helped me to decide what I want to do with my future."

Spencer Sykes says: "I like the Career Center because it is all hands-on and you're not always working in text books like regular school."

Desiree Fortin says: "I am in the Career Center because I've wanted to be in the culinary business ever since I was little and the Career Center is helping me achieve that goal."

Community Service Learning

Our students do community service projects to learn the values of giving, of sharing their skills, and to support our community

Computer & Networking Technology: In Barton, the students wired St. Paul's school; They refurbish computers to give to needy students.

Welding: Making file cabinet racks for the NCUHS computer lab; building a piece of weight equipment for the NCUHS weight room.

The Green Industry (Horticulture): Working with Tranquil Gardens; on campus landscaping the courtyard and the front of the school; every spring planting flowers at Baxter Park.



Our new Welding/Metal Fabrication instructor, Shaun L. Sweet, comes to us with over 20 years in the welding business. His prior employment was with the Burlington Plumber and Pipefitters Union. He told me that he traveled out-of-state a lot; often going to worksites for up to a month. Deciding he wanted to be able to spend more time with his family, he found us.

We are happy to have him on board.



How about a cookie!!!

Business Technology: 45 dozen cookies were made by the students, boxes were decorated to hold the cookies, and they were delivered to the food shelf.

Culinary Arts: A fund raiser for Katrina; collected food at holiday time for needy families.

Internet Technology: The students captured scores at Fitness day and made a website to present them; they did a website for the Derby Wild Cats.

Marketing: Apple picking for rest homes and the hospital; fund raising for Katrina, the dialysis machine, and Camp Ta-Kumta; a Thanksgiving dinner for a family; providing children's books for the library, and more.

Building Trades: Built a stage for Second Summer Production; built 2 birch book cases for the community's tutorial program; and a bike shed for NCUHS Physical Education program.

Health Careers: The students worked at the flu clinic; decorated Bel-Aire Quality Care Nursing Center at Christmas time.

Natural Resources: At Tranquil Gardens the students rototilled around the main sign and cleared brush; At the Jay/Westfield school they cleared the ropes course of brush; yearly the students maintain the forest at Prouty Beach.

Computer Arts & Animation: A new program this year, next year the students are planning on working with our community businesses developing logos and such.

The architect's drawing of the changes to the current building and an insert of the new front.



There are a few very important facts that you should know:

1. The most important fact is that North Country is one of only two Career Center expansion projects to have 100% funding of the State share.
2. The \$12.4 million of the State share represents the cost per square foot in 1999, and it is still the funding formula in use today. The \$12.4 million is already committed to the project by the State. We need however, to adopt a plan to initiate the usage of it. The bond vote initiates the usage of the State money.
3. It is widely believed in legislative circles that if our community does not vote for the proposed project that this 100% funding will be withdrawn and used somewhere else in the State. In our case that is \$12.4 million.
4. Currently all new projects of this type are receiving between 30% and 50% financing from the State. 100% funding is a thing of the past and we are very lucky to still have this level of financing commitment.
5. A very beneficial financial consideration for many voters within our community is the fact that they will be able to benefit from Act 130 and 68 real estate tax stabilization opportunities.

Meet the Adult Services Coordinator



Eileen Illuzzi

Biographical Information:

Born and raised in New Rochelle, NY.
Attended college at the University of Rhode Island earning a BA in Psychology.
Moved to Vermont in 1986, started working as a home tutor for the
Adult Basic Education program in January of 1987.
Held various positions within that organization
Received a Masters Degree in Administration from St. Michael's College.
Three children, James Desrochers, a junior at NCUHS, David Desrochers,
an eighth grader at NCUJHS and Vincent Illuzzi, four years old.
Married to Senator Vince Illuzzi in June 2000.

FROM THE ADULT SERVICES COORDINATOR ...

My name is Eileen Illuzzi and I am the Adult Services Coordinator at the North Country Career Center. I actually work for a non-profit organization called Northeast Kingdom Learning Services (NEKLS) who have a contract with NCCC to oversee the Adult Services Program. This is the first time the department has been run this way, and we're very excited about the future of the program.

I have worked for NEKLS for nineteen years in many different capacities. I started as a home tutor teaching basic education, and then moved on to new program development and management. Some of the programs that I have developed in the past are a GED program for teen parents; several alternative programs for high school students; workplace education programs for several area employers; a competency based diploma program with area high schools; and an independent high school. I have also served on many different interagency committees and enjoy working within the community. I have always found my job exciting and rewarding, and now I am looking forward to the possibilities that the collaboration between NCCC and NEKLS bring to the Adult Services Program.

Although the transition was a bit chaotic at first, things have settled down and classes are running smoothly. I have been meeting with area employers and agency representatives, as well as students and instructors, to plan the summer schedule. Things are looking great, so stayed tuned-- the summer schedule will be out before you know it!

Adults in our community are welcome to apply to attend
a day time program on a space available basis.
Call the Adult Services Office at 334-7140 for more information.

For more information contact:
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209 Veterans Ave.
POB 705
Newport VT 05855
(802) 334-5469
northcountrycareercenter.com

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