

GREEN MOUNTAIN IMPERATIVE

A Breakthrough Summit on Public Education

October 24, 2014

Dear Colleague:

Greetings and thank you for agreeing to join us for the **Green Mountain Imperative: A Breakthrough Summit on Public Education** scheduled for November 17-18, 2014 in Burlington, VT. This will be the first of several emails that you will receive from us between now and the Summit with updates and preparatory materials for the event.

OUR FOUR IMPERATIVES

We are pleased with the responses we continue to receive from our Summit invitation and look forward to having you work with us – and 200 of Vermont’s critical thinkers and doers from many different walks of life – to explore innovative solutions aimed at addressing four key imperatives:

- 1. EQUITY** - Identifying the educational opportunities to which we want every child to have access
- 2. QUALITY** - Discerning how Vermont’s public education system is currently serving the children and taxpayers of Vermont
- 3. EFFICIENCY** - Determining how to improve our systems to deliver educational opportunities in the most equitable and affordable way, and
- 4. SYSTEMS CAPACITY** - Understanding how to best harness the power and commitment of our communities to better serve all Vermont’s children.

To help orient you to some of the issues we will be discussing during the Summit, we suggest that you take time to view a couple documents: the 2014 *Situational Analysis* created by the Vermont Superintendents Association and Vermont School Boards Association (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvNmAF7kC3U>); and, the attached PowerPoint presentation used by Vermont Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe in recent meetings with Vermont’s school boards, which will form the basis for an expanded presentation by Secretary Holcombe at the Summit.

HOW WE’LL WORK TOGETHER

Unlike other summits, our work together on November 17 & 18th will follow a strength-based, solution-seeking approach to change known as Appreciative

Partners:

Julie Coffey, Building Bright Futures

Stuart Comstock-Gay, Vermont Community Foundation

Steve Dale, Vermont School Boards Association

Jeffrey Francis, Vermont Superintendents Association

Scott Giles, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation

Rebecca Holcombe, Agency of Education

Stephan Morse, State Board of Education

Shap Smith, Speaker of the House

Lisa Ventriss, Vermont Business Roundtable

Staff/Consultants:

Sherra Bourget, Vermont Business Roundtable

Jen Hetzel Silbert and Tony Silbert, Spartina Consulting

Tim Volk

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Inquiry (AI), which honors the “3-legged stool” of Continuity, Innovation, and Transition. Given the four imperatives outlined above, and addressed in great detail in the 2014 Situational Analysis report, we invite you to consider the following:

Continuity – What do we already have that is worth keeping, building upon? What do we want to preserve no matter what else changes?

Innovation – What do we want to consider that’s novel, innovative and necessary?

Transition – How do we get from where we are to where we want to be – and in a manner that is in service of the collective good?

HOW YOU CAN HELP, PRE-SUMMIT

We wonder what lessons, insights, and resources (articles/links) you might be willing to share with summit participants prior to our time together in November? Do you have access to research in education reform that we should highlight at the Summit? Please send suggestions for cases or materials you would like to showcase to the Vermont Business Roundtable at 802-865-0410 or lisa@vtroundtable.org.

To officially register for this event, please visit the following link:

<http://vtroundtable.org/events/green-mountain-imperative>. If you need overnight lodging, a block of rooms has been reserved at the DoubleTree Hotel at a discounted rate. Please reference the **Green Mountain Imperative** when making your reservations, which may be made online at

http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/B/BTVDTDT-VBR-20141116/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

If you are traveling from a distance greater than 60 miles and the cost of lodging presents a hardship, then please email me ASAP for consideration toward a lodging voucher.

And finally, we ask you to read and agree to the appended **Green Mountain Imperative** Pledge.

We look forward to having you join us in November for this exciting event.

Sincerely,

s/Lisa Ventriss

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Participant Pledge

As a member of the broader community participating in the Green Mountain Imperative Summit, I commit to the goal of providing a high quality education for every Vermont student. I similarly commit to assuring the best use of monetary and personnel resources in that system.

As an individual participant in the Green Mountain Imperative Summit, I pledge to cooperate and collaborate in this critical effort to achieve high quality educational opportunity for every Vermont student. I pledge to work toward the goal of creating a more efficient system that responds with efficacy to the collective interests of the children being educated, the taxpayers providing the resources supporting the system, and the communities in which they reside. I also pledge to participate in a manner that is honest and respectful of differing perspectives, that is open to learning, builds on strengths, and seeks solutions in service to the collective good.

In that spirit, I hereby pledge to bring my best intentions, my best thinking and a true commitment to achieving a breakthrough for Vermont's public education system to this work.

Signed and Dated:

Name (please print):
