

GREEN MOUNTAIN IMPERATIVE

A Breakthrough Summit on Public Education

October 31, 2014

Dear Colleague,

Excitement continues to build for our upcoming **Green Mountain Imperative Summit**. We are looking forward to hosting you in South Burlington on November 17-18th.

IMPORTANT: If your plans have changed and you are no longer able to join us for the full two days of the Summit, please let us know right away by contacting Vermont Business Roundtable (865-0410) or lisa@vtroundtable.org, so that we may offer your place to another participant.

This email contains three pieces of information to help you prepare for the summit:

1. A pre-summit task for you
2. Additional background materials to support your preparation
3. A high-level agenda for our time together

1. Pre-Summit Task

Prior to the summit, we ask you to think about your public education sacred cows and come prepared to talk about them. Consider, for example, the competing values and beliefs we might unknowingly bring to the table, e.g. "I believe in equity. And I want to protect *my* child." If we all believe that Vermont's future depends on high quality learning for every child - delivered through an efficient, affordable system - we must be willing to acknowledge our own competing values, make difficult choices, and take a step forward.

What biases might you be holding on to that we need acknowledge in order to better understand the gravity of the challenge before us and, more importantly, make some difficult choices for a true "breakthrough" in supporting high quality, affordable learning for every child?

2. Background materials

Thanks to all who provided recommendations on background materials. We have captured a list of pre-reads, which are continually being refreshed, from state reports to recent headlines that you will find of interest. Keep checking these items, which are available here: <http://www.vtroundtable.org/events/green-mountain-imperative>

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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3. Agenda

A **high-level agenda** of the *Green Mountain Imperative Summit* is available at the event page. As you will remember from our invitation to you – this is not your ordinary conference! Rather, as you will see from the agenda, the design of this summit is intended to be a dynamic, interactive working session that will bring our diverse participants together in ways that generate new ideas. After a series of presentations and facilitated brainstorming sessions, working teams will join together to actually begin designing and prototyping some of the visionary ideas and innovative solutions aimed at four key imperatives:

1. Quality
2. Efficiency
3. Equity
4. Systems Capacity

Next week we will be sending you additional logistical information about the Summit and updates as appropriate. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please let us know by contacting the Vermont Business Roundtable at 865-0410 or lisa@vtroundtable.org.

We look forward to seeing you on November 17th – 18th.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ventriss