

GREEN MOUNTAIN IMPERATIVE

A Breakthrough Summit on Public Education

November 7, 2014

Dear Colleague,

This was a BIG week for finalizing preparations for our Green Mountain Imperative Summit! We're ready to roll and look forward to working with you November 17-18th.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All overnight accommodations at the Doubletree must be booked on or before this Sunday, November 9th. Please plan accordingly. Also, should your plans have changed and you're no longer able to join us for the two full days at the summit, please let us know immediately by contacting the Vermont Business Roundtable at 865-0410 or lisa@vtroundtable.org

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

1. Pre-summit reflection
2. Additional background materials – special pre-read request

1. Pre-summit reflection

It's easy to name what we "don't want" when it comes to public education – what's broken and who's to blame. It's often challenging to name, instead, what we DO want – solutions to propel forward existing great ideas and innovative solutions to ensure they stick. This summit will take a bold look at statewide education data – building on that provided in advance on the VBR website (<http://www.vtroundtable.org/events/green-mountain-imperative>) – and afford many opportunities to explore the affirmative – what we DO want and what it will take to make it actually happen. **What we look for, we find; and what we pay attention to, grows.**

At the center of our conversations is our belief that every Vermont learner deserves the highest quality education that our taxpayers can afford. With quality as our goal, this summit will address three key imperatives:

1. Efficiency
2. Equity
3. Systems Capacity

In preparation for these discussions, we invite you to **consider what a "breakthrough" summit would look like in addressing these three imperatives.** For every Vermont learner to receive the highest quality education that our taxpayers can afford, what specific innovations do you hope to build on or explore together November 17-18th? **With our eye on what we DO want (versus what we do not), breakthroughs can and will happen. Our children deserve nothing less.**

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

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Sherra Bourget, Vermont Business Roundtable

Jen Hetzel Silbert and Tony Silbert, Spartina Consulting

Tim Volk

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2. Additional background materials – special pre-read request

We continue to expand our portfolio of background documents, resource links, and videos to help you prepare for your arrival at the summit. Please visit <http://www.vtroundtable.org/events/green-mountain-imperative> daily to scan new resources to help inform and broaden your perspective pre-summit.

Of particular importance is a new addition, the **Education Quality Standards (EQS)** link that we strongly encourage you to review as “pre-summit homework” this week.

Next week we will send a special letter to summit participants from Secretary of Education, Rebecca Holcombe, as well as final reminders and updates. If you have any questions, please contact the Vermont Business Roundtable at 865-0410 or lisa@vtroundtable.org.

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

Sincerely,

Lisa Ventriss