

**Quarterly Report to the Partner Advisory Council****JUNE 2011**

Spring is a time of growth and renewal and that seems to be holding true for the Center. We are pleased to welcome five new members to the Partner Advisory Council this month. At our March partner meeting, we carefully considered the composition of the advisory council and developed a list of people and organizations that could bring new and valued input and perspective to the Center's leadership group. We also took into account areas of work that we want to more fully develop and connections that we need to build or strengthen. The five new members each bring a wealth of experience, good energy and ideas, and new connections for us to grow and explore. I look forward to expanding our group to welcome: Ken Page, Executive Director of the Vermont Principals Association; Lindsay Simpson, Physical Education Consultant, Vermont Department of Education; Tricia Pawlik, Director of Youth and Family Programs, Burlington YMCA; Kreig Pinkham, Executive Director, Washington County Youth Services Bureau; and Heather Schneider, Academic Program Coordinator for GEARUP, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation.

As many of you know, we have two key partners who have been on the Partner Advisory Council since the Center first was created who are moving on to new stages and opportunities in their lives. Ruth Matthews is retiring after many years of service in support of afterschool programs and providers in Vermont. Karen Scott will be leaving VSAC at the end of June after a long and successful career working on college readiness and access for Vermont's students. We wish them both the very best and appreciate the important roles they played as Center partners but also for the tremendous contributions they have made throughout their careers to the children and youth of Vermont.

Celebrating strong partnerships,  
Holly Morehouse, Director

**Partner Advisory Council 2011-2012**

- Ginny Burley, Community Connections and Afterschool Ambassador Emeritus
- Jeff Fournier, Burlington Afterschool
- Nicole Mace, Voices for Vermont's Children
- Ruth Matthews, Vermont Agency of Human Services, Child Development Division
- Mike Mrowicki, Putney Family Services and Vermont State Representative
- Ken Page, Vermont Principals Association
- Tricia Pawlik, Greater Burlington YMCA
- MaryBeth Pinard-Brace, Vermont Family Network and PIRC-VT
- Kreig Pinkham, Washington County Youth Services Bureau
- Carmel Quinn, Girls Scouts of the Green and White Mountains
- Barb Russ, Winooski School District
- Karen Scott and Heather Schneider, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
- Lindsay Simpson, Vermont Department of Education
- Rich Tulikangas, Linking Learning to Life
- Darlene Worth, Champlain Valley Educator Development Center

## Center Operations

- The Center and CVEDC have new offices! We're on the north campus of St. Michael's College in Dupont Hall (Fort Ethan Allen). The Center is in Suite #309 with CVEDC-ESA right next door in Suite #308.
- In the last quarter, between March 1 and May 21, we had 823 total visits and 597 absolute unique visitors to the website. Since May 21, 2011, one year ago, we have had: 4,868 total visits and 3,014 absolute unique visitors to the website.
- We continue to use our Facebook page to get information out to the field. We've posted policy updates, partner news, training opportunities, and videos.
- We currently have 58 monthly active users on our Facebook page and have collected a total of 101 fans (up from 93 last quarter).
- We continue to use our Mail Chimp account to communicate with programs, partners, and advocates. We have a total of 495 subscribers, 23 new subscribers since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, and an open rate around 23%.

### Highlights

Please make note of our new mailing address:

Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence  
 c/o Champlain Valley Educator  
 Development Center  
 123 Ethan Allen Avenue  
 Dupont Hall Suite #309  
 Colchester, VT 05446

We also have an office phone line now:  
 (802) 448-3464

But you can still reach Holly on her cell phone as well: 598-4005

## Partnership Development

- We are excited to welcome five new members to the Partner Advisory Council this June: Ken Page, Executive Director of the Vermont Principals Association; Lindsay Simpson, Physical Education Consultant, Vermont Department of Education; Tricia Pawlik, Director of Youth and Family Programs, Burlington YMCA; Kreig Pinkham, Executive Director, Washington County Youth Services Bureau; and Heather Schneider, Academic Program Coordinator for GEARUP, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation.
- The Center is celebrating with two of our key partners who are moving on to new opportunities this summer. Ruth Matthews is retiring from CDD at the end of June and is looking forward traveling and spending more time with her grandchildren. Karen Scott will be leaving VSAC at the end of June and is taking advantage of this opportunity to explore new options and/or educational goals. We wish them both the very best and appreciate the important roles they played as Center partners but also for the tremendous contributions they have made throughout their careers to the children and youth of Vermont.
- The Center hosted a table this year at the Working With Youth Conference on May 20<sup>th</sup> in Killington. Sue Kamp and MaryBeth Pinard-Brace both served on the planning committee for this conference. Lynne ran the table, made many new contacts, and focused on building interest among conference attendees in ISS-AP and in the *Lights! Camera! Learning!* project.
- At Karen Scott's invitation, Holly and Darlene Worth both attended VSAC's GEAR UP Spring Advisory Meeting. Both the Center and CVEDC were asked to consider becoming GEARUP partners for the next grant period (6-7 years). The purpose of the GEARUP program is to increase the number of students from low- and moderate-income families who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

- The School Audit process run by the ESA's this year wrapped up in May. Holly participated on four audits and was the lead writer for two. The school audits provide a comprehensive look at the systems in place within schools to support student learning. Participating on the audit teams has been a good opportunity to look at what strategies and systems are in place and to also consider how expanded learning opportunities are or can be used.
- Center consultants participated in grant review processes for 21C grants in both Vermont and New Hampshire. Lynne reviewed grants for Vermont's 21C program and Sue reviewed grants for New Hampshire's 21C program.
- Lynne participated in a 3-day site visit process through CIPAS (Continuous Improvement Process for Afterschool) at a 21C program in Farmington, NH. It was a great opportunity to participate on a team with other afterschool leaders and to learn more about this intensive site improvement process.
- Sue has been asked to sit on the Community Impact Committee of the United Way of Chittenden County. This Committee looks at large community indicators and trends to help change those trends in a positive way. The Committee is working toward setting ambitious goals regarding education and lowering the dropout rate and sees afterschool programs as strong partners in this work. Sue will meet monthly with the Committee and at least for the summer, also meet with the Education Impact team, which will be setting priorities for change and funding.
- Holly was asked to give a presentation at the VTDOE's Consolidated Federal Programs (CFP) state meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> at Killington. The CFP meeting is an annual state event for school administrators, curriculum coordinators, and grant managers. Holly presented a workshop on "Expanding Time and Learning: Effective Strategies for Afterschool and Summer Programs."

### Highlights

- Big welcome to our five new members of the Partner Advisory Council: Ken Page (VPA), Lindsay Simpson (VTDOE), Heather Schneider (VSAC), Tricia Pawlik (YMCA), and Kreig Pinkham (WCYSB).

### Next Steps and Partner Points

- Please update your binders with the new partner information and contact sheets.
- Partners are all asked to think about what projects or initiatives they might want to be involved with next year.

## Policy and Advocacy

- We are grateful to Vermont's congressional delegation and their staff offices for staying in touch with us about issues at the federal level concerning afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs.
  - We recently had the opportunity to compile feedback for Jessica Cardichon (Senator Sanders' office) on the TIME Act and ESEA Reauthorization.
  - Holly will be following up on an invitation from Tricia Coates at Congressman Welch's office to schedule a meeting to share with her further about the Center and our work around afterschool, summer, and expanded learning.
  - During her remarks to educators and conference participants at the state CFP meeting, Maggie Gendron of Senator Leahy's office put forward the Center's *Lights! Camera! Learning!* project as one of four selected examples highlighting good work in Vermont.
- The Congressional delegation sent representatives to VTDOE's Consolidated Federal Programs meeting in Killington on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Maggie Gendron (Senator Leahy's office), Jessica Cardichon (Senator Sanders' office), and Tricia Coates (Congressman Welch's office) each spoke about the difficult struggle in Washington concerning federal budget cuts and fighting for funding for important programs (specifically

mentioned were summer, afterschool, and early education). Other concerns mentioned:

- ESEA Reauthorization- hoping for a base bill out of committee by the end of June and looking to move towards a more supportive, less punitive system for schools in need of support
- Importance of continuing formula funding for key programs (as opposed to moving more programs to a competitive grant process like Race to the Top)
- Establishing an Office of Rural Education within the US Department of Education for the protection and interests of rural districts and rural states
- Senator Sanders has introduced new legislation (Secondary School Reentry Act) aimed at increasing efforts to reengage discounted youth who have dropped out of school
- There were a number of important issues to watch in Vermont this legislative session concerning education and services to children and youth. We appreciate the work of our partner, Voices for Vermont's Children, in helping to keep us informed in the state policy arena.
  - The State Budget for FY2012 saw a number of programs and grants that were initially cut in the Governor's proposed budget partially restored by the legislature. The Coalition of Teen Centers grant is one particular program that we were watching (originally eliminated but ultimately restored with a 50% cut).
  - H.97 was a bill proposed this year to allow limited collective bargaining between childcare workers and the state of Vermont. During the legislative session we received a number of calls and emails from afterschool program providers expressing support on both sides of the issue. In the end the House Human Services Committee removed licensed child-care centers from the bargaining unit, meaning that it will apply primarily to registered and licensed family child-care homes. Center and school-based afterschool programs are no longer included in the collective bargaining unit. The bill will be taken up by the Senate during the 2012 legislative session.
  - Although proposed under Challenges for Change, the Administration decided not to centralize child care subsidy eligibility programs. Instead the system for determining eligibility will continue to work through the currently designated community agencies.
  - The House Human Services Committee directed Building Bright Futures to follow through on the work outlined in the Kids Are Priority One Coalition's Quality Matters campaign to improve the quality of early education and care.
  - Emanuel Betz, VTDOE State Coordinator for Vermont's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, announced proposed developments to Vermont's 21C program that would require programs in Years 10 and beyond to show a minimum of 75% program sustainability. He also issued a "call to action" to program directors to look towards regional and state collaborations as a way to strength sustainability in the future, especially if federal funding for the program is cut.

## Professional Development and High-quality Programs

- The Vermont Afterschool Conference will be held on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Sheraton in South Burlington. Ray McNulty, former Vermont Department of Education Commissioner will be the keynote speaker. We are currently soliciting and collecting proposals for workshops of which there will be 30 throughout the day. Training strands include Science, Math, Working with Older Youth, Educational Leadership, and Health and Wellness. We are also excited to have several new committee members joining a core group that has worked together the past few years in planning and hosting the conference.
- The Northeast Networks jointly held six professional development webinars so far this year:
  - Paul Young, Executive Director of the National Afterschool Association, presenting on building linkages between school and afterschool

- Ray McNulty of the International Center for Educational Leadership speaking on supporting student learning
- Anita Krishnamurthi, Director of STEM Policy at the Afterschool Alliance, speaking on STEM in afterschool
- Jeff Smirk, Vice-President for Policy at the National Summer Learning Association, talking about a new vision for summer school
- Yvonne Brathwaite, Associate Executive Director, Partnership for After School Education (PASE), and Denice Williams, Assistant Commissioner, New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, presenting effective professional development systems
- Mark Tappan, Professor of Education and Human Development and Chair of the Education Program at Colby College, speaking on boyhood and the media in afterschool
- With the exception of the Summer Learning Strand, all the ISS-AP Strands have wrapped up for the year. The following data was collected through the 2010-11 ISS-AP survey to participants. The data highlights the effectiveness of the coaching model in supporting program directors and improving program practice:
  - 88% of ISS-AP participants rate the balance between workshops, conference calls, individualized coaching, etc. as excellent or good.
  - 90% of ISS-AP participants rate the accessibility of the ISS-AP coach as excellent or good.
    - “[ISS-AP coach] was always available and helped me problem solve along with way. The amount of individual assistance I received was exactly what I needed to ensure the program success.”
    - “This strand enabled me [to] focus on key areas where I was unsure, and work with an experienced Director, who was regionally close to my program.”
    - “The information received from the strand was definitely individualized and pertinent to each director. Data and feedback was extremely useful!”
  - 90% of ISS-AP participants rate the connection to other afterschool directors as excellent or good.
    - “I appreciate the forum in which all the participants gave each other feedback and help with brainstorming ideas.”
    - “Was great to network and communicate with other site coordinators and share resources.”
  - 93% of ISS-AP participants rate the overall experience as excellent or good.
    - “At the end of this strand I felt more confident in the direction my program is headed.”
    - “This strand was very valuable in terms of the work that I wanted to focus on with my program this year. Thank you for the opportunity for this meaningful professional development.”

## Highlights

- A full slate of new ISS-AP strands and coaches is in planning for the 2011-2012 school year. A few of the new strands include STEM learning, Financial Management, Literacy Skills, Video Production, and Building Community.
- Through our merger with VSACN the Center now offers over 25 different staff training workshops.
- We are working on expanding the YQPI pilot next year to 10 additional sites. We also hope to train a group of experience directors and trainers in the Youth Worker Methods workshops for YPQI.

## Next Steps and Partner Points

- Mark your calendars! **The Vermont Afterschool Conference will be at the Sheraton in Burlington on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011.** We’d love to have all the partners attend. Thanks!

- ISS-AP Summer Learning strand is in full swing with the first coach from outside Vermont facilitating (Jennifer Brady, formerly with the National Summer Learning Association)
- We are making several changes to ISS-AP for next year to make the program even stronger. One important change will be organizing the schedule so that all strands meet on the same four days throughout the year. This will allow for us to build in time for general state announcements and conversations and the opportunity for directors to network with one another over lunch.
- Using the needs assessment data from the ISS-AP participant survey, Lynne has been working on identifying a strong set of coaches for next year. Tentative strand to be offered in 2011-12 include:
  - New Directors' Strand (coach: Lynne Feal-Staub)
  - Youth Program Quality Intervention (coach: Holly Morehouse and the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality)
  - Financial Management (coaches: Jenifer Holland and Shawn Stelow, The Finance Project)
  - Video Production (coach: Luke Stafford, Mondo Mediaworks)
  - Building Community in Afterschool (coach: Jen Stanchfield, Experiential Tools)
  - Summer Learning: Program Design and Development (coach: Jennifer Brady)
  - Building Literacy Skills in Afterschool (coach: Barbara Russ)
  - Science, Engineering, and Technology in Afterschool (coach: Sarah Kleinman, UVM Extension 4-H)
  - And 1 – 5 others depending upon funding (e.g., global literacy, working with older youth, positive behavior supports, etc.)
- One more important addition that we are looking at for ISS-AP is to add the option of staff-based trainings to the programming-related strands. This addition would allow for ISS-AP coaches to work directly with program staff (alongside the program director) as part of the embedded professional development and individual program support.
- In May, Sue and Ruth met with staff from VTDOE to discuss the Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) program that is currently in use in over 100 schools across Vermont. Our next step is to learn which schools currently using PBIS have afterschool programs and strengthen linkages around behavior supports. VTDOE has agreed to make sure that SU's that are interested in starting PBIS include the afterschool program in the training and implementation.
- The Center partnered on a meeting in May led by Kerrie Workman, CDD Consultant, to review the Vermont Core Competencies for Afterschool Professionals and compare and contrast them to a draft of National Core Competencies for Afterschool and Youth Workers, being proposed by the National AfterSchool Association. The discussion involved revisiting the Vermont document, reviewing the national document, comparing the two, and making comments to send back to the committee working on the national document. For next steps, participants generally liked the core competencies being proposed by the national group and decided to see how that effort evolves over the next few months before continuing any further work on the Vermont document.
- One new area of work for the Center through our merger with VSACN is regional staff trainings. Between March 1 and June 1, eleven of these staff training workshops were held in various parts of the state. Nine others are scheduled for the summer, with more likely to be scheduled in the coming weeks. We are currently working on a comprehensive professional development brochure outlining all the staff training workshops as well as our ISS-AP strands and other professional development opportunities for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Another new area of work that came with the merger with VSACN is the Mentors for Quality program. Mentors work with registered and licensed programs requesting technical assistance on a variety of program development areas. There are currently Mentors for Quality services being provided to 9 sites.
- Thirteen people attended a 2-day training hosted by the Center in April on NIOST's quality improvement system. We are currently seeking funding from the Child Development Division to offer the next level of

training with the goal of expanding our Mentors for Quality program by training mentors as Quality Advisors using the NIOST quality assessment tool. We will also be meeting with the STARS staff in June to further discuss the use of this tool as an approved option in STARS.

- Afterschool Essentials, an introductory program for new afterschool professionals has been approved by the Child Development Division. This course will allow us to offer an afterschool-specific alternative to the “Fundamentals for Early Childhood Professionals” course currently required for all staff working in regulated and licensed programs. The Center will run a pilot of the program (likely fall 2011). Plans are for this program to run at least twice a year with funding from the Child Development Division.

## Lights! Camera! Learning! Project and Video Vignette Competition

- We are starting the final round of the *Lights! Camera! Learning!* competition. To date over 40 *Lights!* videos have been submitted and three rounds of the *Lights!* competition have been held. Videos have ranged from nature-based and outdoor adventure programs to literacy-building and tutoring programs.
- In this final competition, we’ve added a new category for overall program videos. This category will allow entries to feature the afterschool program as a whole rather than focusing on one particular activity or program option. Our intention is that these overall program videos will be used to help support program sustainability efforts.
- We have plans to run an ISS-AP Strand to teach programs how to create effective videos to highlight their programs and to provide other supports and incentives to build participation in the final year.

## Membership Development

- We signed a Memorandum of Agreement with NAA to be the state affiliate for the National Afterschool Association. We will launch a membership campaign this summer. From the VSACN merger, we currently have 43 Full Members, 21 Associate Members, and 93 Friends (free level). Our goal is to build to 120 Full Members this coming year.
- We have a membership committee that is working on a more comprehensive membership benefits package. Current proposals include: discounted registration fees for the Vermont Afterschool Conference, discounted rates for Vermont Afterschool Legislative Day, invitations to regional networking meetings, discounts for staff trainings on-site or regionally, plus all of the NAA individual member benefits.
- The first regional membership meeting was held Monday, May 2 at Happy Days Playschool in Arlington. Fifteen

### Highlights

- This is the third and final year of the *Lights! Camera! Learning!* competition. To date over 40 *Lights!* videos have been submitted.

### Next Steps and Partner Points

- We are hoping this round of *Lights!* will be bigger and better than ever. Please help us spread the word by encouraging schools, community organizations, and others to create video entries. The announcement and competition details are all online on our website.

### Highlights

- The Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence is now a membership organization and will run a strong membership drive this year.

### Next Steps and Partner Points

- Partners are encouraged to become members, at the Professional Level, of the National Afterschool Association and our state affiliate. Membership costs \$70/year and includes both the national (NAA) and state level (VCAE).

providers from Bennington County were present, representing registered home care, center-based care and school based care, including 21st Century Programs. The group agreed they would like to get together again in June with a training on team building and cooperative games in preparation for summer programs starting. The Center will partner with Bennington County Child Care Association to co-sponsor the training.

- The National AfterSchool Association convention was held April 15-18 in Orlando. Sue attended along with six others from Vermont. There were about 2,000 people in attendance. Sue attended the Affiliate Leader business meeting on Friday afternoon to hear about the current state of NAA and its services. Keynote speakers were Bill Nye the Science Guy, Richard Louv (Last Child in the Woods) and Adolf "Doc Brown", PhD. Other highlights included a science fair featuring about 50 local children with their projects and hundreds of workshops for all levels of providers and administrators. Next year's convention will be April 2-4 in Dallas.

## Funding and Sustainability Efforts

- In April the Center was awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Jessie B. Cox Trust to support the Burlington Citywide Afterschool Coalition.
- We decided not to apply for the Supporting Student Success Grant (S3). After exploring different options, it seemed to make most sense to put our efforts into connecting afterschool and summer learning to the identified priorities of the legislature and the new administration.
- In May, we submitted a grant request to the Child Development Division for \$135,000 to continue and expand our working supporting regulated afterschool and school age care programs through professional development, systems building, and technical assistance. Award announcements are expected in June.
- In May, we also submitted a proposal to the Vermont Department of Education for a three year grant (\$120,000/year) to provide professional development, evaluation, technical assistance, and sustainability services and supports to Vermont's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers. We should hear back on this application by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Highlights

- The Center received \$40,000 from the Jessie B. Cox Trust to support the Burlington Citywide Afterschool Coalition

### Next Steps and Partner Points

- We are still interested in developing a sponsor base for our key events (e.g., the Vermont Afterschool Conference and the Vermont Afterschool Legislative Day) as well as for our signature project, *Lights! Camera! Learning!*. If you have a good business, bank, or corporate contact who may be interested in supporting programs that work with children and youth in this way, please let us know.

*The Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence is a statewide public-private partnership committed to building a strong foundation for Vermont's youth. The work of the Center directly supports programs that provide innovative learning opportunities beyond the school day for all Vermont's children and youth. The Center's activities are directed toward building the capacity and commitment of communities to increase the quality and availability of programs during non-school hours.*

*For more information about the Vermont Center for Afterschool Excellence visit:*  
**[www.vermontafterschool.org](http://www.vermontafterschool.org)**