

BARNET – DANVILLE – PEACHAM – WALDEN

Caledonia Central Supervisory Union
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Donna Gaston, E.L.O. Project Director

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Dear Committee Members:

In the current ever changing world, there is no guarantee that you will be able to keep the same job or even stay in the same field until you retire. How many of you have had to change jobs or careers?

Thirty-five years ago I graduated with a degree in architecture thinking that I would be an architect for the rest of my life. Six years ago, after recently moving to Vermont, that vision changed. The economy here took a nose dive, and I, being the last one hired, was the first one “fired.” I had to find a new career!

I found out about the importance of transferable skills. I had always worked with children through coaching and teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, so I started as a substitute teacher. My professional skills including creativity, organizational skills, teamwork, budgeting and a wealth of other experiences helped a new job to find me. I became the director of four after school programs even though I had no background in education.

I am directing these after school programs because I want to instill the love of learning and to develop transferable skills in students to help them adapt in this ever changing world. In addition to keeping the students safe after school, the programs teach problem solving, creativity and social skills along with improving a student’s academic base. Students are involved in engineering, science and tinkering classes where they learn to create things and to adjust to situations as they evolve. They also learn to work collaboratively with other students through these and other classes such as Destination Imagination and Jr. Iron Chef. In the meantime they are increasing their self-esteem and building a bank of transferable skills that they can use in the future.

I hope all of you share this desire to help our students to succeed in their futures. How can you help? Funding for the Expanded Learning Opportunities Special Fund is a place to start.

Sincerely,



Donna Gaston, E.L.O. Project Director

“It is the mission of the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union and its four member schools to create a learning community in which each individual can achieve the highest standards of excellence in intellectual growth and citizenship.”