



## What is 70x2025vt?

70x2025vt is a partnership between influential Vermont leaders in education, business, nonprofits, philanthropy, and local, state and federal government intended to build commitment and progress to an ambitious goal: **by 2025, 70 percent of Vermonters possess a postsecondary degree or credential of value.** As a collective-action organization, 70x2025vt facilitates collaboration among those dedicated to achieving the goal, leads initiatives to increase degree and credential completion, and works to broaden public understanding of the goal, its importance, and the steps that must be taken to achieve it.

The creation of 70x2025vt came following a yearlong effort of Vermont's Lumina Foundation State Policy Academy Working Group, which reviewed data and reports from education and economic development leaders, and raised the state postsecondary attainment goal from 60 percent to 70 percent.

**Mission:** Increase the economic and civic vitality of Vermont through education attainment. By 2025, 70 percent of working-age Vermonters will possess a postsecondary degree or credential of value.

### Objectives:

- Identify and eliminate barriers to postsecondary access and success for youth and adults.
- Strengthen pathways between education and employment.
- Change the narrative to ensure public recognition of postsecondary education and college and career readiness as a shared value.
- Align state policy with the 70x2025 goal.

## Who is 70x2025vt for?

70x2025vt is dedicated to ensuring that Vermonters from every corner of the state, from every economic and educational background, have access to the education they need to excel personally and professionally. Whether you are a parent helping your child plan for their future, a middle school student considering what comes after high school, a recent high school graduate or adult getting ready to begin or complete a degree or credential program, an employee looking to advance in the workplace or switch careers, an employer seeking talent, or if you're considering a move to Vermont, 70x2025vt is here to help.

## Why is 70x2025vt important?

Reaching the goal of 70x2025 is crucial to the individual prosperity and equity of Vermonters and to the economic wellbeing of the state. Individuals with education or training beyond high school are more likely to be financially secure, have healthy families, have children who perform well in school, vote, volunteer, serve on civic boards, and patronize the arts. The risks of inaction are significant; state revenues will lag, and employers will continue to struggle to find the talent needed to keep their businesses thriving.

## **How does 70x2025vt approach its work?**

70x2025vt seeks to drive postsecondary credential achievement by approaching its work in three fundamental ways:

1. Connect and facilitate collaboration among the existing and future efforts of employers, postsecondary education/training, preK-12, civic/philanthropic organizations, and policymakers;
2. Identify and fill the gaps where current efforts need a boost;
3. Change the conversation by making the case for postsecondary education to local, regional, and statewide influencers, as well as students, parents and the community at large.

## **Who stands behind 70x2025vt?**

70x2025vt is led by a council of 25 well-respected leaders from all corners of the state including employers, educators, civic groups, lawmakers and members of the Governor's cabinet. Many major statewide education and business organizations are supporting partners of 70x2025vt.

### **70x2025vt Council**

Bob Allen	President, Green Mountain College
Becca Balint	Vice Chair, Senate Education Committee
Liz Bankowski	President and CEO, Windham Foundation
Liz Gamache	Mayor, City of St. Albans
Scott Giles	President and CEO, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
Rebecca Holcombe	Secretary, Agency of Education
Eileen Illuzzi	Director, North Country Career Center
Joyce Judy	President of Community College of Vermont, Vermont State Colleges
Pixie Loomis	Executive Director, Vermont Adult Learning
Kate McGowan	Executive Director, United Way Addison County
Mary Alice McKenzie	Former Executive Director, Burlington Boys & Girls Club
Rob Miller	Chief Executive Officer, Vermont State Employees Credit Union
Paul Millman	President, Chroma Technology Corporation
Mary Moran	Superintendent, Rutland City Public Schools
Laurie Patton	President, Middlebury College
Aly Richards	Chief Executive Officer, Permanent Fund
Michael Schirling	Secretary, Agency of Commerce and Community Development
David Sharpe	Chair, House Education Committee
Dan Smith	President and CEO, Vermont Community Foundation
Bill Stritzler	Owner and Managing Director, Smugglers' Notch Resort
Scott Thomas	Dean of College of Education & Social Services, University of Vermont
Lisa Ventris	President, Vermont Business Roundtable
Al Wakefield	Chief Executive Officer, Wakefield Global

## **Where can I get more information?**

For starters, visit [70x2025vt.org](http://70x2025vt.org). Or contact Tom Cheney, 70x2025vt Director, at [Cheney@vsac.org](mailto:Cheney@vsac.org) or call (802) 542-2217.