

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p>REGIONAL TECHNICAL ACADEMY INITIATIVE</p> <p>Their hopes are in your hands.</p> | <p><u>Why?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vision • The Need • The Program • Who Can Attend? | <p><u>How YOU can help</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the Survey • Share Your Stories | <p><u>Project Details</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Planning Committee • Project Chron • Governance Proposal • Fact Sheet • The Cost • FAQs |
| | <p><u>What the press says</u></p> | | |

THE NEED

The establishment of a regional technical academy in Chittenden County will answer the needs of students, parents, and the business community.

Access

On average, 34% of Vermont eleventh and twelfth graders take advantage of technical education program offerings. In Chittenden County, only 10% are served. Because both the Burlington and Essex facilities are at their maximum physical capacity, no additional students can be served without adjusting either the service delivery model or the physical plants. At the Center for Technology at Essex (CTE), space is so limited that several programs operate out of trailers located behind the school building. Applications for CTE's Pre-Tech Program, a limited option for 10th graders, usually exceed available enrollments 2 to 1. The demand for technical education far exceeds the supply.

Drop-Out Rate

Studies indicate that 75-80% of all students learn best within a context. Applied, integrated, and project-based instruction leads to more student success. Career Academy schools that deliver this type of instruction in other parts of the country see lower drop-out rates, higher attendance rates, and better prepared students. Studies conducted by High Schools That Work, a national education reform initiative, reveal additional evidence that Career Academy models significantly reduce drop-out rates. Students graduating from these schools enter the workforce more prepared and better able to accomplish a particular goal. This approach translates into productive citizens who can make lasting contributions to their community. In Vermont, approximately 95% of incarcerated youth lack a high school diploma. This school, while addressing different learning styles, could be a viable option for many students and could



have a significant impact on the drop-out rate in Chittenden County.

Workforce Development

According to a report issued by Jeffrey Carr of Economic and Policy Resources, our region currently has a shortage of skilled workers and this gap will only widen over the next ten years. Many Vermont high tech companies spend millions of dollars each year recruiting employees out of state to meet their workforce demands. Early research conducted through the Lake Champlain Workforce Investment Board uncovered a significant gap in education and training opportunities to prepare young people and adults for high skill, high pay jobs. The Technical Academy could be the cornerstone of a long-range workforce development plan in our region.

By the end of her sophomore year of high school, Kate was ready to call it quits. "She was just a statistic," comments [unclear]. After great success at [unclear] for Technology, she graduated and now attends Vermont Technical College.
- Kate [unclear]
Center for Tech [unclear]



If you are interested in participating in our grassroots campaign to establish the state-of-the-art facility for our students, please contact [Melissa Hersh](#) or [Cecile Wick](#) or call (802) 883-1111.