

BCIC Workforce and Education Initiatives

Our goal is to connect and promote k-16 education, adult education, the general public and area businesses to enhance employability and vitality in the region by:

- Increasing dialogue about common areas of interest and need
- Increasing awareness of a broad range of careers in the region
- Articulating the role of post-secondary education and training in economic development
- Encouraging and supporting entrepreneurial activity in Bennington County
- Measuring the impact of our activities

Community

April Career Month

During April of each year, the Workforce and Education working group engages the community in celebrating the diversity of career opportunities in Bennington County. Activities include the We Make Cool Stuff newspaper series, discussions with professionals in local high school classes, Career and College Fairs, open houses at colleges and businesses, workshops for job changers and seekers, Dress for Success events, and career activities at elementary, middle and high schools. The month includes over thirty different events involving area employers, Workforce and Education partners and members of the Bennington County community.

Adult

Certified Production Technician

Advanced manufacturing training program leading to nationally recognized certification. Recruitment targets job changers, unemployed, and new hires in manufacturing. Collaborating partners include CCV, VDOL, BCIC and area employers.

Certified Public Bookkeeper

Participants earn 4 national certifications and 8 college credits in this 3-month accelerated program. Recruitment targets employees in small businesses wanting to upgrade skills, job changers and job seekers. Collaborating partners include CCV, VDOL, BCIC and area employers.

Start Up 802

Program assists entrepreneurs in developing the mindset, resources and plans to be successful starting their own businesses while earning college credit. Collaborating partners include LJ, BCRC, BCIC, CCV, Innovate 518, BACC.

Workforce Investment Matters (WIM) Conference

The WIM conference brings together employers and education to focus on specific pathway sectors. This year's meeting explored apprenticeships in areas including early education, manufacturing, and emergency services. Promotes new partnerships and increased awareness of opportunities for collaboration.

Apprenticeship Program

Participants take part in paid, on-the-job learning plus classroom training/college credit for careers in early education, plumbing, electrical, manufacturing. Program expansion is in development with VDOL, VR, SVCDC, CCV, and BCIC/RC involvement.

Internship Program

An expansion of our robust high school and college internship programs, it is intended to provide support for businesses interested in paid internships particularly in hard-to-fill, highly skilled positions. Still under construction – with collaborating partners including BCRC/IC, VDOL, and LJ.

Five Colleges

All five accredited colleges in Bennington (Bennington College, CCV, NVU Online, SVC, Vermont Tech) play important roles in enhancing area educational opportunities.

High School

Financial Reality Fair

Fall event for high school sophomores that emphasizes the connection between education and career opportunities by having students spend down a monthly paycheck and explore the value of upgrading their skills. Collaborating partners include VDOL, MAUHS, CCV, SVC, BBA and over 50 community volunteers. The event takes place at SVC.

Sophomore Career Summit

This full day spring event is open to all Bennington County high school sophomores and highlights area opportunities in 14 broad career areas. The planning committee includes MAUHS, VDOL, CCV, SVC, CDC, and BBA with close to 60 community professionals participating as panelists. The event takes place at SVC.

Emerging Leaders

A year-long program for high school sophomores and juniors that provides opportunities for students to explore post-secondary education options, career pathways, networking, and take part in a 40-hour summer internship. Collaborating partners include MAUHS, BBA, CCV, VDOL, and area employers. Program takes place at CCV with grant support from VDOL.

Junior Experience

This interactive event exposes high school juniors to career pathways including Post-secondary Technical Credentials, Work-based Learning, College, and Service. Collaborating partners include VDOL, VR, MAUHS, AMHS, CCV, SVC, SVCDC, LJ, Benn Free Library and 24 area professionals.

Middle and Elementary School

Career and College Exploration for 7th and 8th Graders

Targeted opportunities to encourage early exploration of college and careers by middle school students through workshops, presentations, and visits to college campuses. Collaborating partners include MAUMS, MEMS, Benn College, SVC, CCV, VDOL and VR.

Shires' Business Challenge

Teams of 5th and/or 6th grade students at area elementary schools create their own businesses and then sell their wares at Business Fairs at their schools. Collaborating partners include Bennington Elementary, Pownal Elementary, MEMS, and SVHC. Supported by a VDOL grant.

Seedlings Program

This multi-year program provides a nurturing afterschool environment for elementary school children in poverty. Students enter in first grade and stay with the program through their transition to middle school. Collaborating partners include Bennington Elementary, Molly Stark Elementary, SVSU and TTC with volunteers from CCV, SVC, Benn College and the Bennington community.

Key to Collaborating Partners

AMHS	Arlington Memorial High School
BACC	Bennington Area Chamber of Commerce
Benn College	Bennington College
BCRC	Bennington County Regional Commission
BCIC	Bennington County Industrial Corporation
BBA	Burr and Burton Academy
CCV	Community College of Vermont
LJ	Lightning Jar Co-Working Space
MEMS	Manchester Elementary and Middle School
MAUHS	Mount Anthony Union High School
MAUMS	Mount Anthony Union Middle School
NVU Online	Northern Vermont University Online
SVC	Southern Vermont College
SVCDC	Southwest Vermont Career Development Center
SVHC	Southern Vermont Health Care
TTC	The Tutorial Center
SVSU	Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union
VDOL	Vermont Department of Labor
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation