

Vermont Technology Alliance Overview

House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development



The VTTA is Voice for Technology in Vermont

The <u>Vermont Technology Alliance</u> is a business association with a mission to support, promote, and grow technology jobs and technology-driven businesses and organizations in Vermont.

- Only statewide organization focused on Vermont's tech business sector.
- 200+ members from individuals to large companies
- Representing a range of business areas:
 - Software, web development, IT, manufacturing, telecommunications and more
 - Businesses and organizations that work with and support Vermont's tech industry – including educational institutions, consultants, law firms



The VTTA delivers on its mission through:

Advocacy – for programs and public policy that support the success and growth Vermont's technology-focused businesses and jobs.

Recruiting - Career Center - We work to attract a tech workforce to the state. A key resource is our <u>Career Center</u>, which lists hundreds of job opportunities.

Collaboration and Outreach – with government, businesses, non-profit organizations, and higher education, to strengthen and grow Vermont's tech sector.

Events and Networking – creating opportunities for the tech community to connect, learn and find contacts, business opportunities, employees, and customers.

Communication – through our website, monthly newsletter and social media reaching a tech-focused audience in and outside the state. Our LinkedIn group has nearly 800 members from across the U.S.



Tech is Vermont's Strongest Economic Growth Opportunity

- Vermont's tech sector represents growing, diverse, high-paying employers
 Paying up to 2x average wage and generating taxes and additional jobs.
- Tech is infused throughout Vermont's broader economy
 nearly every job and industry requires tech skills and applications.
- Tech businesses can startup and locate in Vermont's communities and downtowns (with broadband connectivity).
- Tech businesses are hiring finding employees critical to their success.
- Tech jobs attract younger workers (important to VT's demographics).
- Tech employees attracted to innovative businesses and quality of life (which Vermont has).
- Current opportunity to attract remote tech workers to VT.
- Vermont can and should compete to attract tech talent, businesses and startups, including to smaller, more rural communities.



STEM/Tech Job Report Highlights

From Labor Dept report on the impact of STEM/Tech jobs in 2016, updated 2019

- STEM/Tech jobs make up 25% of all Vermont employment.
- STEM/Tech jobs earn 88% more on than the state average.
- STEM/Tech wages represent more than \$6 Billion in payroll annually, and make up approximately 40% of all Vermont wages.
- STEM/Tech jobs are growing at a rate that is 3x other VT jobs.
- Each STEM/tech job creates 2 other jobs in the economy.



Public Policy Focus Areas

Expand Vermont's Brand and Marketing to Attract a Tech Workforce

- Marketing plan/budget for ACCD
- Remote, relocating worker Incentives

Address Infrastructure Needs

Broadband & Telecommunications, Housing

Expand Vermont's Tech Business Ecosystem

- Vermont Seed Fund
- Blockchain
- Business Portal
- Workforce development and education
- Co-working spaces and programs

Public Policy That Supports (Not Hinders) the Growth of VT's Tech Economy

- Cloud Computing Tax
- Business tax credits and incentives
- Business regulations: Non-compete Agreements, Contracts, Right to Repair,
 Permits

