

Montpelier High School

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Students will be capable, motivated contributors to their local, national, and world communities.



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Good evening. I am Jason Gingold, a dedicated education professional who profoundly understands Vermont's workforce landscape. I am here to discuss Advance Vermont's request for \$350k in base funding to support MyFutureVT, the state's only free online resource for career and education exploration and planning. It is a vital resource for career and education seekers of any age and those who support them, such as career and school counselors, teachers, employers, and family members.

My journey, which has included serving as the VT Career Center Director at Randolph Career Center for five years, at Burlington Career Center for two years, and now as the principal of Montpelier High School, has given me a deep personal connection to the challenges and opportunities our workforce faces.

MyFutureVT is not just a budgetary ask; it is a crucial investment for the people of Vermont.

Reflecting on 2019, my ninth year in career education, I recall the inefficiencies that plagued career and education seekers. The internet did not offer a one-stop solution, forcing individuals to navigate multiple links and organizations and duplicating efforts.

This was a significant barrier to finding learning opportunities to improve their lives and increase their earning potential. The introduction of MyFutureVT removed that barrier.

BY investing in MyFutureVT- we can provide:

- A free, accessible resource for career and education seekers that is carefully curated to support Vermont's vulnerable and underserved communities.

- Expanded functionality, content, and resources aligned with state priorities and programs.
- Increased awareness and tool usage through training, workshops, and student-focused events.
- Whether Vermont wants to grow its workforce from within or attract workers from out-of-state, MyFutureVT provides the access and resources necessary for job seekers to find their next potential skill-based learning position.

Vermont has already reaped the benefits of MyFutureVT

Over 120,000 users

94% user satisfaction

90% of our users find the information to be valuable to them

90% of the users reported the use of MyFutureVT led to positive changes in their education or career planning

Vermont's workforce and education landscape is not just changing; and it's evolving rapidly. The population is shrinking and aging out of the workforce. We must act now to ensure a sustainable future for our young adults and workforce. MyFutureVT is a crucial tool in bridging the workforce gap and ensuring that Vermont's economy remains competitive.

By investing in MyFutureVT as you have done in three of the last four years, you, our esteemed state legislators and stakeholders, will continue to provide valuable resources for the people of Vermont who want to improve their wages and education while improving the businesses that make Vermont go. Your support is vital in making this initiative a success.