



Supporting Vermont's Workforce: Our Commitment to CTE and Career Pathways

The **Vermont Retail Lumber Dealers Association (VRLDA)** represents locally owned, independent building material suppliers across the state. Our members aren't just employers—they're community builders, family businesses, and long-time partners in Vermont's economy. They're also deeply committed to creating opportunities for the next generation to build a life right here in the Green Mountain State.

That's why several years ago, VRLDA launched **Bright Futures**—an initiative designed to introduce students to real, hands-on careers in the building materials and construction industries. What began as a regional effort has now grown into a **statewide movement**, supported by industry leaders, national brands, educators, and technical schools across Vermont.

This year's **Building Bright Futures 2025** event, held at Vermont State University's Randolph Campus, brought together **hundreds of students** from across the state. Students engaged in boom truck demos, CAD design, hands-on construction projects, and real conversations with industry mentors. The event made one thing clear: **Vermont students are eager for opportunity—they just need to be shown the path.**

We also believe Vermont's **Career and Technical Education (CTE)** system can better serve students—and we're ready to help make that happen. Members like **Tim Comes of Goodro Lumber** have worked with career centers for years and know where the system is succeeding and where it needs support.

We support **sensible, student-focused CTE reforms**, including:

- Ensuring **guidance counselors are informed and engaged** with career centers so they can present the trades as a respected, first-choice option
- **Aligning student interests with program availability**, and improving transportation access
- **Right-sizing CTE programs** across regions to address capacity imbalances—closing waitlists in one area while filling seats in another
- Fixing **funding models** that currently penalize schools when students pursue CTE
- Creating **graduation pathways that allow students to complete CTE programs** while fulfilling academic requirements
- **Merging CTE and traditional subjects**, such as writing about CTE projects in English or studying building airflow in science

These aren't just ideas—they're real, workable solutions rooted in the experience of Vermont employers and educators.

Our message to you is simple: we want to partner with the Legislature. The VRLDA is here to be a **resource**—not just for workforce policy, but for putting those policies into action.

Together, we can build a stronger system that connects Vermont students to real careers—and helps them stay, thrive, and build their future here, in the Green Mountain State.



Established in 1931, The Vermont Retail Lumber Dealers Association was formed to fulfill a leadership role by identifying challenges, changes, and opportunities that will insure our members' business success and future.

The VRLDA is committed to strengthening Vermont's workforce by expanding access to skilled trades and career pathways. Through our Bright Futures initiative and on-the-job training programs, our members are already helping young Vermonters start strong careers—without leaving their communities.

We're ready to work with the Legislature to support sensible CTE reforms and ensure the next generation can build a future right here in the Green Mountain State.

The VRLDA is a member-driven organization that advocates effectively for the lumber and building materials industry in Vermont. Our strength comes from the active involvement of local businesses who engage directly with legislators to share real-world insights and practical solutions. Supported by expert lobbying led by William "Bill" Smith, Esq., VRLDA navigates the legislative process with precision and credibility. By combining on-the-ground industry knowledge with professional advocacy, we ensure the voices of our members are not just heard—but taken seriously—in Vermont's policy decisions.

Lumber and Building Materials Industry

Accounting Clerks	\$18.84
Assistant Yard Supervisor	\$20.00
Bookkeeper/Accountant	\$34.79
Cashier/Customer Service	\$16.23
CDL Delivery/Truck Drivers	\$22.10
Computer Systems Manager	\$38.00
Credit/Collections Manager	\$40.00
Dispatcher/Distribution	\$33.68
Estimators	\$33.00
HR Manager	\$38.50
Lift Truck Operators	\$18.75
Marketing	\$35.00
Millwork Personnel	\$22.00
Non-CDL Delivery/Truck Drivers	\$18.19
Office Manager	\$31.00
Stock Person	\$15.39
Yard Supervisor	\$22.40
Buyers	\$27.00
Inside Sales/Customer Service	\$22.11
Outside Sales	\$28.75
Kitchen & Bath Sales	\$25.63
Hardware Sales	\$17.88

53 Member Locations More Than 5,000 Employees



For More Information Please
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