

Senate Economic Development, Housing & General Affairs Tom Cheney, Executive Director March 27, 2025

# Vision & Mission

### Vision

A highly educated and financially secure citizenry that supports a prosperous state economy and engaged communities.

### Mission

Ensure that every Vermonter can see and is able to pursue a career and education pathway that helps them meet their goals.





# Work

We believe that meaningful **career and education navigation is critical** to reversing the sharp decline in aspirations and bridging socioeconomic gaps for Vermonters.

To that end, Advance Vermont:

- → Ensures that career and education seekers and those who support them have the **information and tools** they need to make informed choices.
- → Elevates the importance of non-degree education options in building a strong workforce.





# State Goal: 70x2025

"It shall be the goal of the State of Vermont that not less than **70 percent of working age Vermonters will hold a credential of value**, as defined by the State Workforce Development Board, **by the year 2025**" – Act 80 of 2019





Micro-Credentia

# Advance Vermont

# **Act 80 Policy Priorities to Achieve Goal**



Promote awareness of career pathways and the value of postsecondary education and training



Expand access to postsecondary education and training to students of all ages



Increase completion of postsecondary education and training programs by ensuring Vermonters have the supports they need to succeed



Maximize partnerships across and within sectors to achieve State workforce development and education goals



# Vermont's Current Attainment Rate (2023 Figures)

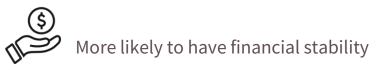


# **An Urgent Need**



**2.7 jobs** for every Vermonter looking for work

### People with credentials are...





More likely to vote

More likely to have healthy families



More likely to be engaged in the community



Less likely to be food insecure



Less likely to experience homelessness

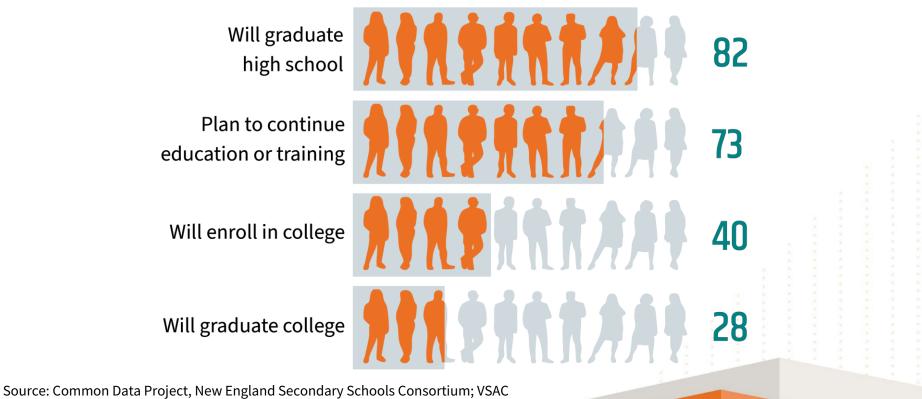
78% of "most promising" jobs require a credential







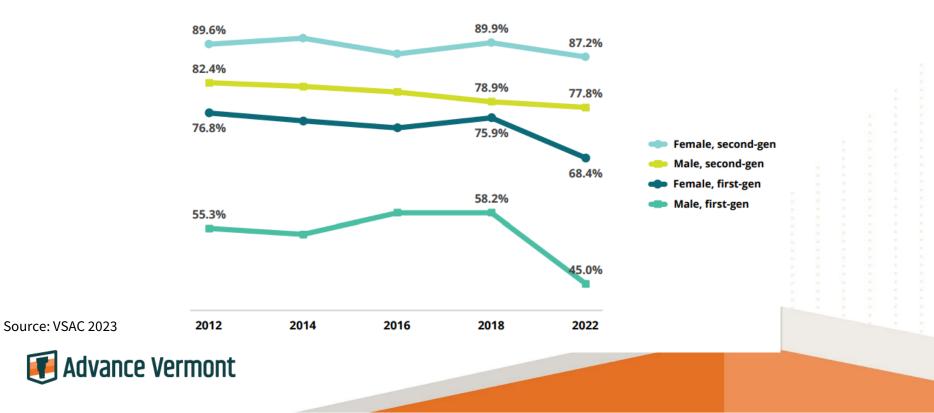
# Of Every 100 Vermont High School Students

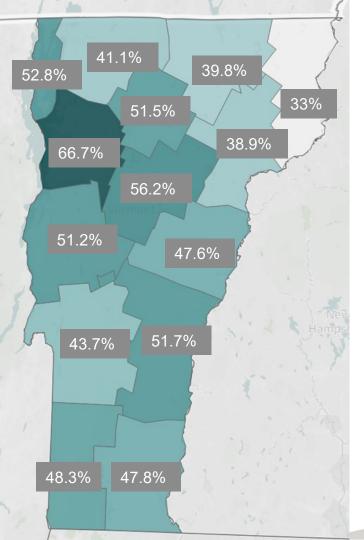




# Huge disparities in aspirations; all are falling

Figure 4. Aspiration rate by gender and parents' educational attainment

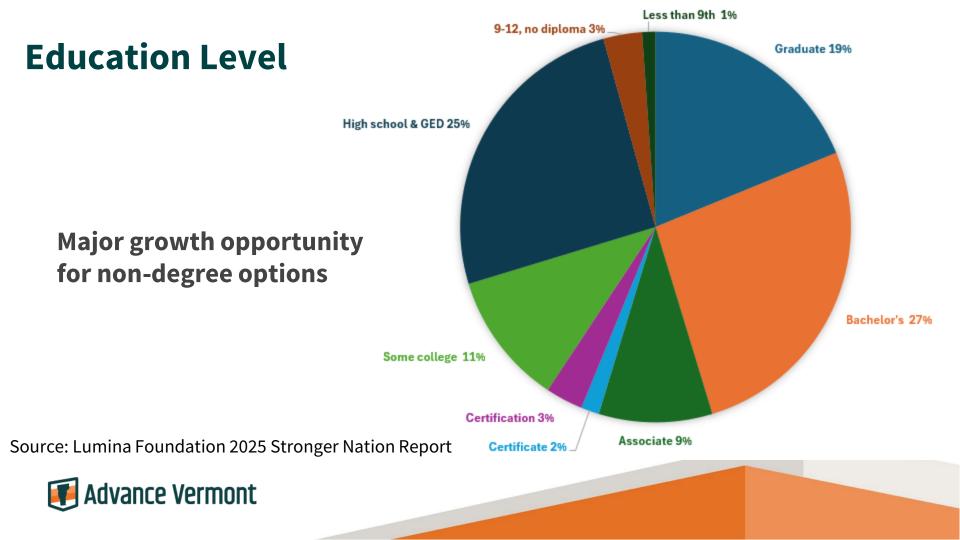




# **County Attainment**

The median attainment rate of working age Vermonters who live outside of Chittenden County is 47.8%.

Source: Lumina Foundation 2025 Stronger Nation Report



# Are high school students prepared?

To the best of your knowledge, how prepared are your child(ren) for their post-high school education and career transition?

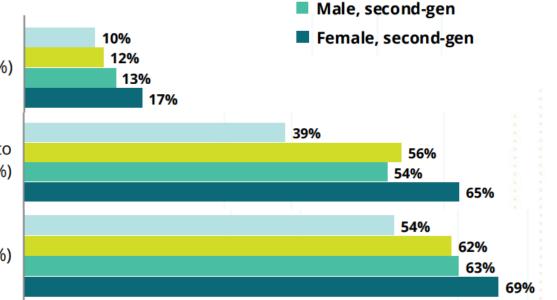


# **Career/ed exploration limited**

Participated in internship (13%)

Researched education/training needed to do the work I want to do (54%)

Talked to an adult about careers (62%)



Male, first-gen

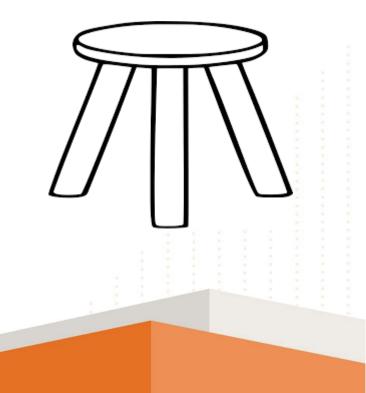
Female, first-gen



# **How to Make Progress**

A three-legged stool approach:

- → Robust education and training options
- → Strong financial aid and support services
- → Inspiration and aspiration





# **MyFutureVT**

Vermont free hub for career and education exploration and planning



# **EXPLORE CAREERS**





Q



EXPLORE CAREERS
<b>•</b>

FIND EDUCATION •

GET SUPPORT •

Search ...

## Your Path. Your Future.

Welcome to your free online resource to help you take the next step in your education and career journey.



I want to know more about...



### **Recent Posts**

#### VIEW ALL POSTS



### Step-by-step education guide

Discover which education or training programs meet your goals with our step-bystep guide.



# How CCV students can get guaranteed admission to bachelor's degree programs

The Vermont Transfer Guarantee is a partnership between CCV and participating colleges and universities in VT, allowing you to transfer seamlessly.



## What to know about the 2025 – 2026 FAFSA

If you are planning to be a student during the 2025-2026 school year, it's time to get started on the FAFSA.

### **Featured Careers**









 $\rightarrow$ 



Search

554 Results

Q Type your keywords here...





Accountants and Auditors

500+

Careers





Actuaries



LEARN MORE ABOUT JOB







Acupuncturists

```
OVERVIEW INTERESTS
```



GET SUPPORT



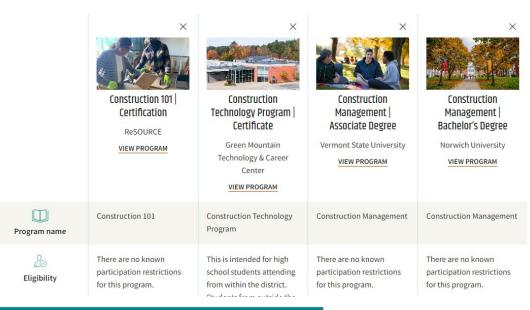
### **Compare Programs**

FIND EDUCATION AND TRAINING

-

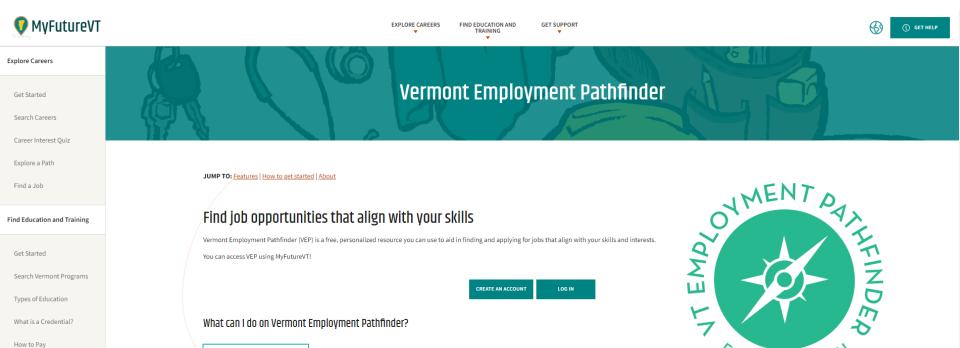
#### 

### & Share Link





# Vermont Employment Pathfinder



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Find Education and Training
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et			

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Search Vermont Programs
```

Types of Education

What is a Credential?

How to Pay

#### Get Support

Understand Your Support Options

Search Support Services

Find job oppo	-	rou can use to aid in finding and applying for jobs that align with your skills an	id interests.
You can access VEP using N	lyFutureVT!		
		CREATE AN ACCOUNT LOG IN	L
What can I do on Ve	ermont Employment Pathfinder?	,	٢
What can I do on Ve	ermont Employment Pathfinder?	2	Ę
What can I do on Ve		2	Ł
	me/CV	?	Ļ

FIND YOUR PP

# Vermont Employment Pathfinder

Skills

Careers

🖹 Learn

🗂 Jobs

- AI powered, personalized, skills-based tool that:
  - → Identifies skills
  - → Finds education opportunities
  - → Connects to job openings
  - → Links employers with employees
  - → Resume builder



2009 - 2013 Cashier Hannafords		
Added skills		0
<b>hich skills did you use?</b> :k from suggestions or search for skills. It's OK to add skills you only ed rarely.	Q Search skills	
Sales argumentation	Customer service Processes and principles related to the customer, client, servic and to personal services; these may include procedures to eva customer's or service user's satisfaction.	
다 I don't know this skill	다 I don't know this skill	
Maintain transaction's reports 🕀	Operate cash point	(





FIND EDUCATION AND **GET SUPPORT** 

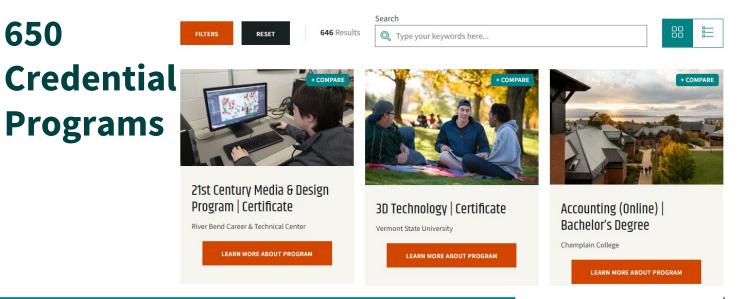
TRAINING



## Vermont's Education and Training Programs

All of Vermont's most promising careers require education or training beyond high school - from a certificate to a master's degree.

Use the filters to sort by type of credential, which occupations and industries the credential leads to, how much it costs (remember - most students do not pay the sticker price), and more.





# MyFutureVT: Making an Impact





of all users rate MyFutureVT as 'good' or better.

96%

94%

of all users say MyFutureVT has **content that is valuable** to them.

**94%** of all users say MyFutureVT has **a good look and feel**.

I've used similar platforms that were different in the way things were set up. This is more user friendly and has a more student-friendly feel."

- Zeynep (20s) of Chittenden County

74% of career and education seekers say MyFutureVT is engaging, which encourages them to explore more information — and 89% of navigators report the same.



# **MyFutureVT: Making an Impact**

### Leading to positive outcomes



93%

of education & career seekers say **something changed for them** after using MyFutureVT.

of navigators say **MyFutureVT made a difference** for their clients or family members.

I have just heard a lot of negative things about just the workforce in general, especially in Vermont ... this opened me to jobs that are local and nonprofit."

- Lydia (20s) of Washington County



now have a clearer understanding of their career path.



say MyFutureVT helped identify resources to support their decision-making.

22%

say MyFutureVT connected them with people or organizations who can help.



enrolled in an education or training program.



applied for or have been offered a job.



# **Vermont Credential Transparency Project**

**Goal:** Inventory all postsecondary credentials available in Vermont for the benefit of prospective students, workers, education and training providers, and state leaders.





Apprenticeship



Badge



Certificate



Certification



Degree



Diploma



License



Micro-Credentia



## **Benefits to Vermont**



## Individuals

Access to clear and accurate program information empowers students and workers to find the credential that works best for their education and career goals.





Increased knowledge of the credential options leads to new partnerships with education and training providers, and more informed hiring decisions.



Policymakers

Comprehensive program and credential information helps inform workforce development and education policy decisions.

Education and Training Providers



New marketing opportunities for regional and national exposure to Vermont's programs and new data to make informed choices about program offerings and delivery models.



# Graduate with a Plan

**Goal:** increase the number of high school aged Vermonters who graduate with a career and education plan for after high school with the support of a trusted adult.

- → Provide navigator training to better equip student-serving adults (from teachers to employers) to support students in exploration and planning.
- → Develop and pilot a model curriculum for career and education planning in middle and high schools.





# **Budget Request**

Advance Vermont seeks a base appropriation of \$350k to sustain and expand MyFutureVT and enhance its statewide reach and impact.

State support will enable MyFutureVT to:

- → Remain a free, accessible statewide resource
- → Expand content, functionality, and resources
- → Increase awareness and usage





# Thank you



Visit <u>advancevermont.org</u> or <u>MyFutureVT.org</u> for more information

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