

LEADERSHIP CHAMPLAIN

802.863.3489 ext. 227 • cari@vermont.org

'Fascinating' Day with Focus on Energy

By Renee Dall, Recruiter, Fletcher Allen Health Care

Fascinating. That seems to be the word that best describes the Leadership Champlain Energy Seminar in February. Walking into the IBM conference room at 8 a.m. - it would be fair to say that a majority of our class had a pretty clear opinion on energy, and the direction that we thought Vermont should take. When we walked out at 4:30 - our vision for VT's energy future was far less clear.

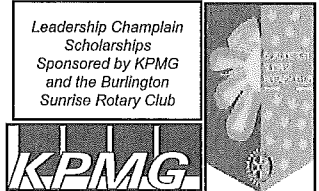
Hearing from Chuck Ross, of Senator Leahy's office, as well as Dotty Schnure and Mary Powell from GMP and Rich Sedano, from the Regulatory Assistance Project gave us a very interesting overview education of the current energy situation in Vermont.

The Expert Panel, featuring representatives from VELCO, IBM, Efficiency Vermont, and VPIRG was enlightening. It was so timely to hear the different perspectives on our energy future - considering the current situation with VT Yankee relicensing, and the upcoming vote on the Lowell wind project. IBM's Janette Bombardier's perspective was particularly enlightening, showing the impact of energy on VT's business community. Her quote "Listen to all of us, believe none of us. Do your own math." really resonated with me. Every decision that is made regarding energy clearly has a ripple effect and the potential for unintended consequences if we aren't evaluating each option very closely.

Janette returned to present "Smart Grid in Action at IBM" - a compelling business case for energy efficiency. IBM tracks their energy consumption very closely and holds their managers accountable for energy usage and conservation. Additionally, there are sensors throughout their manufacturing facility that not only help them conserve energy and run more efficiently, but also let employee's know when something is wrong before it impacts production.



Our last project of the day was to propose solutions for Vermont's energy future - this is where it all really came together. We broke down how much of VT's energy should come from which sources, what the cost impact is, and the rationale for those decisions, as well as considering a "meaningful" tax on CO2 output. Of the 3 groups, everyone had a cost increase, and two of the groups decided to not impose the CO2 tax. The industry leaders who had presented during the day questioned each group intensely about how and why they made these decisions, just as they receive from the stakeholders that they hear from.

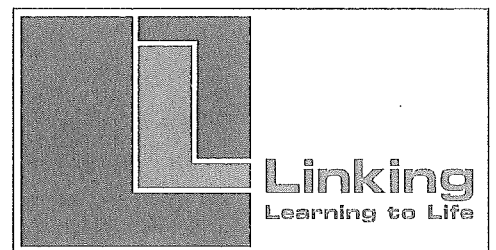


College Connections Helps Vermont Students Move to the Next Level

College Connections promotes college readiness and access for students who have barriers to pursuing a college education. Students in grades 10-12 from high schools, technical centers and alternative education programs are provided options for exploring post secondary education prior to graduation. College Connections, now in its 12th year, has helped hundreds of Vermont students plan, prepare for and successfully enroll in and complete post secondary education programs by building personal relationships and providing intensive support.

Over the past 5 years, more students are enrolling in College Connections with significant barriers and at the same time, have shown an increase in success by completing their

college courses. Linking Learning to Life is also tracking post-secondary enrollment and continuation rates for



students who have participated in the program. Our students have achieved 70%-90% successful college enrollment and continuation rates.

Linking Learning to Life began in October 1997 as a partnership of the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Burlington School District, and the University of Vermont. For more information, visit us at www.llvt.org.