

# LINKING LEARNING TO LIFE

802.951.8845 • [www.linkinglearningtolife.org](http://www.linkinglearningtolife.org)

## YES! Means Success for Area Youth

The 2008-2009 school year has been a great success for Youth Employment Service (YES!). YES! is a Linking Learning to Life program that provides career guidance, employment assistance, and community based-learning opportunities for students with disabilities. YES! is a partnership with VocRehab Vermont and is staffed by Pam Gowland, Vocational Rehabilitation Transitions Counselor, and Simon Parlante, Employment Training Specialist.



Pam and Simon work specifically with individuals determined eligible for services based on documented disabilities, including physical, mental health, developmental and learning disabilities. The program began at Burlington High School and has expanded to include services for some students in Colchester and Winooski High Schools.

This year Pam is extending her services to The Community High School of Vermont and the Bridging Program. The Community High School provides educational opportunities for students who are identified as at risk by dropping out of surrounding public schools. Furthermore, youth who part of the Vermont correctional system are mandated to attend. The Bridging Program is a community-based program for students with developmental disabilities. Currently Pam is co-facilitates career exploration activities at the Vocational Rehabilitation office in downtown Burlington once a month.

This year students working with YES! have been successfully connected to employment opportunities at several businesses in Chittenden County including Hanaford, Price Chopper, T.J. Maxx, Macro International, Recycle North, and Engineering Ventures. Specific work experiences have included cashiering, merchandizing, secretarial work, and surveying for research. In addition, the program has worked with Vermont Teddy Bear in order to explore the use of assisted technologies for the blind in order to evaluate the possibility of hiring a student as a customer service representative.

If you would like more information about Youth Employment Services (YES!), please contact Simon Parlante Employment Training Specialist or Pam Gowland, Voc Rehab Transition Counselor at (802) 864-8430.

### Please Join Us!

A Linking Learning to Life  
Recognition Celebration  
of our Community Partners!

Linking Learning to Life cordially invites you to attend our 4th Annual Community Partners Recognition Event. A light fare reception and presentation of awards will take place in honor of our Community Partners.

Where: Champlain College –  
IDX Student Life Center  
163 South Willard Street, Burlington, VT

When: Wednesday, May 27 2009, 3:30 to 5:00pm

RSVP: May 14, 2009

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