

# LT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 25, 2018

Most Vermont schools resume next week and the energy is palpable. As I talk with Vermonters at county fairs and festivals I am reminded of the importance of our schools to local communities, uplifted by the excitement children have about education, and inspired as teachers share the new ideas and projects they will bring to their classrooms.

As the father of a soon-to-be teen, I also know school brings anxiety for a number of reasons from bullying to discrimination to stress about costs of higher education. There are more questions than answers. I recently had the opportunity to meet with Greg Stefanski, Ex. Director of Laraway Youth and Family Services, and hear about the work they do to build caring communities. On the back you will find some suggestions from him on supporting the education of youth in your life.

**APPROXIMATELY 75% OF VERMONT TEACHERS  
PARTICIPATE IN A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM DURING THEIR SUMMER BREAK.**

(VT-NEA)

In April, I had student leaders from Montpelier as guests for my weekly Town Hall. They shared work they were doing with the community to raise awareness around racial diversity in their school and community, including raising the Black Lives Matter flag. We have made some great progress but creating environments and opportunities for racial equity will take constant work. We must ensure everyone is supported in our schools, regardless race, income, nationality, or other circumstances.

On September 15<sup>th</sup> in Montpelier, the Vermont NEA will hold a workshop and rally focused on addressing racial equity in Vermont's public schools. Tim Wise, author and nationally known presenter, Attorney General TJ Donovan, Rep. Kiah Morris and I will be addressing issues of race and education, and the challenges we face regarding racial bias in our schools and communities.

I recently met with leaders from CFES Brilliant Pathways and was sad to learn Vermont ranks last in New England, and 42<sup>nd</sup> nationally, for our rate of students continuing to college. I joined their initiative 70x2025vt, aimed at increasing our rank and learned what they do to help students become career ready. Learn more about CFES on the back.

Thanks for staying connected.



(Over)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### August 29 12:00PM

Vermont Agricultural Hall of Fame Luncheon. Champlain Valley Exposition, Expo North Building, Essex

### August 30 6:30PM

Modified Movie Screening and Discussion. Townhall Theater, Woodstock

### August 31 4:00PM

FedUp Rally and Vigil. Factory Point Town Green, Manchester Center

### September 6 7:00AM

Live with Charlie & Ernie on WVMT 620AM

### September 8

12:30PM - PRIDE Parade, Burlington

4:30PM - Rise for Climate Action. Waterfront Park, Burlington

### September 9 1:30PM

Putney Huddle. Putney Public Library

### September 15

12:00PM - Racial Equity in Vermont's Public Schools State House Lawn, Montpelier

5:00PM - Past and Future of Cannabis Reform. VT College of Fine Arts, Montpelier

### September 27 6:30PM

Lt. Governor Movie: *Tough Guise 2*. St. Johnsbury

**For a complete list of  
events please visit the  
calendar on our website:  
[www.LTGov.vermont.gov](http://www.LTGov.vermont.gov)**

## A MEANINGFUL EDUCATION - WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

*By: Greg Stefanski, Executive Director of Laraway Youth and Family Services*

Summer is winding down and it's time for another school year. School folks are cleaning classrooms, updating lesson plans and students are counting down the days. Here at Laraway we work with youth and families throughout the year. A big theme for us is 'building caring communities.'

We all want our kids to receive a meaningful education, right? One that balances high quality content with self-awareness and opportunities to connect with others. Teachers play a critically important role in this journey- What about the rest of us? What can we do to insure our kids are receiving a meaningful education?

We can talk to them. Ask them questions. "How is your science class?" "What's your latest writing project?" "Can I help you review your math problems?" Our questions and curiosity are indicators of our caring. The more we ask, the more we will learn about our kids and more importantly, the more we will let them know we love them.

We don't talk enough about love. A loved child is a confident child and a confident child will be a successful student. A loved and confident child feels safe exploring and sharing their feelings and is excited to make connections with other kids, adults and the world around them.

Finally, asking questions and caring is not just for parents and teachers. Whatever your role in a kid's life is, ask what they are learning and help them achieve a meaningful education.

To learn more about Laraway and our work empowering youth and building community please visit [our website](#).

## CFES BRILLANT PATHWAYS

*By: Jon Reidel, Director of Advancement/Communications CFES Brilliant Pathways*

Despite having one of the highest high school graduation rates in the country, only 60 percent of Vermont's high school seniors enroll in a two- or four-year college or university.

Vermont leaders are joining a statewide initiative known as 70x2025vt, with a goal of having 70 percent of working-age Vermonters attain a postsecondary degree or credential of value by 2025. Achieving this benchmark is critical to closing the growing income disparity gap and addressing the estimated 132,000 high paying jobs in Vermont that are expected to go unfilled in the next decade due to a lack of educated and trained residents to fill these positions.

As daunting as that sounds, a recent UVM study found that if just six more students attended college from each of Vermont's 75 high schools, the state would jump from the bottom 10 to the top 20 for college attendance. The same study identified educational organizations that are uniquely positioned to help Vermont improve its college attendance rate.

CFES Brilliant Pathways, has helped more than 100,000 students go to college over the last 27 years. As the only national non-profit of its kind located in a rural community (Essex, NY), CFES is well-positioned to help schools throughout Vermont ensure that students are college and career ready. Founded in Middlebury in 1991, CFES is currently working with 25,000 students in 150 schools in 30 states and Ireland and is seeking to work with a dozen schools in Vermont during the 2018-2019 schoolyear.

For more information about CFES and its efforts to partner with elementary, middle and high schools in Vermont, please check out the CFES [website](#).