

Emerging  
Leaders

# FORUM



Do you care about *making some change* in your school, your town, your world?

Do you wish you had *more tools* for doing that work?

Do you want to *learn from others* who are also working for change?

Even if you don't think of yourself as a leader right now, *do you wish you could be?*

## WE BELIEVE THAT...

Everyone is a leader in their own right.

Leadership is a life-long journey and comes from lived experience.

## Why does this matter?

This is an unprecedented time when the voices of young people are being elevated and honored on a national level. Their passion and wisdom are palpable forces for change. Vermont has long recognized the central role young people can and should play in shaping their learning and their world. This Forum will elevate youth voice and youth-adult partnership in learning and decision-making in schools and in social justice, environmental and sustainability issues on a local, state, and national level.

## What is the opportunity?

Join a network of young people who are emerging into leadership positions, and their adult partners, to further develop your skills as an agent of change in the work of leading yourself, leading others, and changing our world.

Youth-adult teams from high schools around the state — who already have a clear school-based project in mind — will convene throughout the year to help build capacity to effectively meet project goals. UP for Learning and The Center for Creative Leadership will collaborate to create the time and space for planning, learning, growth, and team building. Together we will lay the foundation from which to build your school-based initiatives, providing ongoing coaching and skill development throughout the year.

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## WE BELIEVE THAT...

Change happens through dialogue.

Extraordinary things happen when we explore our work in a caring, safe community.

## WHAT WILL YOU EXPERIENCE?

Personal exploration

Interactive learning experiences

Design Thinking and project planning

Opportunity to create a strong sense of collective mission/goals

Opportunity to share each team's work

A supportive network

Ways to document and share the work (podcasts/video/reflection/web)

## What are the initiative components?

- ♦ Shared time as a full learning community — 3 days in the summer and 2 days in the winter
- ♦ Virtual learning community in-between forums
- ♦ Credit bearing graduate course or Professional Development hours for adults
- ♦ Independent study or college credit for youth
- ♦ Closing session for teams to reflect on the experience and plan steps moving forward

## Who may participate?

- ♦ Teams of 2 youth and 1-2 adults from a high school who are committed to working as partners on a year-long project.
- ♦ High school teams already at work on a school-based project, or teams that have identified a new project.
- ♦ Youth who have not previously joined in other structured leadership opportunities, including those who face resource barriers ( e.g., work responsibilities, transportation).

Preference will be given to high school teams from communities impacted by an opportunity gap and/or with limited resources for participation in structured leadership opportunities.

## UP for Learning and The Center for Creative Leadership will provide:

- ♦ Three days of orientation and training (July 23-25) to provide core knowledge and skills in leadership and agency.
- ♦ Two days of reflection and further training mid-year (to be scheduled in the winter) to provide additional learning opportunities and project planning.

- ♦ Curriculum resources and materials.
- ♦ On- and off-site coaching throughout the initiative.
- ♦ A remote platform (e.g. Google Group or Classroom) to serve as a communications hub for Forum members.
- ♦ A closing session for teams to reflect on the experience and plan steps moving forward.

## What is the school team's commitment?

- ♦ Attend all six days of Forum meetings.
- ♦ Meet on a weekly basis at school to plan and implement all aspects of the project, including regular check-ins as a team to continue learning and building confidence and competence.



- Offer youth team members credit and/or support to demonstrate proficiency in Transferable Skills.
- Participate in the annual Power 2 Summit in the spring.
- Communicate regularly with UP faculty and provide written documentation as requested.
- Participate in an outside evaluation (University of Vermont researcher) to assess the impact of the experience.

## What are the team members' other responsibilities?

- Students will create an independent study (or identified school course option) and earn proficiency-based high school credit for their work. This will be integrated into the student's Personalized Learning Plan (PLP) and managed by school-based faculty. Learning targets linked to transferable skills are available.
- At least one adult will enroll in a three-credit graduate course taught by UP for Learning staff and accredited by Southern New Hampshire University, or receive professional development hours toward recertification. This professional learning community experience includes:
  - 4-hour meetings (dinner included) in September and March.
  - A sustained discussion throughout the year by means of Google classroom, reflecting on relevant readings and sharing field-based experiences.
  - Adult partners must be ready to support youth in this project work on a weekly basis subsequent to the initial three-day training, helping with all organizational aspects of the project and providing guidance and support to youth team members.
  - Adult partners will meet with staff from UP for Learning and The Center for Creative Leadership in advance of the Orientation and Training to establish consistent expectations (Virtual platform).
  - Adult partners will be responsible for upholding school and onsite rules at Forum meetings.

## Who are the course leaders?

Youth and adult members of the Emerging Leaders Forum will work with staff members from UP for Learning and The Center for Creative Leadership.

**Helen Beattie** is the Executive Director of Vermont's Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning (UP for Learning), which has received national recognition for innovative means to incorporate youth as partners in school redesign efforts. Helen is trained as a school psychologist.

**Harry Frank** is the Program Director of UP for Learning. He has helped to develop and implement UP for Learning curriculum and works with schools throughout the state to realize the potential of youth voice and youth-adult partnership in school redesign efforts.



## FORUM MEETINGS

Orientation and training: July 23-25 (Lyndon State College)

Two-day mid-year training (to be scheduled in the winter at a central location)

Power2 Summit (to be scheduled in the spring at a central location)

Closing event for reflection and celebration

## WHO IS PROVIDING THIS TRAINING AND SUPPORT?

**UP for Learning** provides training, resource development, and ongoing support for a wide variety of initiatives that develop opportunities for young people to assume meaningful roles in shaping their learning and their lives.

**The Center for Creative Leadership** is a globally recognized institution focused on leadership research and leadership education for leaders of all ages.



Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning

## WE BELIEVE THAT...

Creating a caring, safe community for everyone to grow is a responsibility we all share.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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**Joel Wright** serves in CCL's Societal Advancement group as Director of Learning & Innovative Solutions. In this role he leads CCL's early leadership efforts, works to create systemic solutions in schools and communities, and leads a team that works interdependently across Societal Advancement and CCL.

**Preston Yarborough** is the Senior Project Director for university-focused initiatives in Leadership Beyond Boundaries at CCL. He current work focuses on integrating leadership development into the engineering education curriculum.

**Susan Reinecke** is a Societal Advancement faculty member at CCL. Susan designs and delivers custom designed leadership solutions for K-12, Higher Education, and nonprofits that include both short term experiences and systemic initiatives.

## Application

The team of three to four (2 youth and 1-2 adults) will complete a written application that introduces the team members and explains their project.

Preference will be given to:

- Youth who have not previously joined in other structured leadership opportunities, including those who face resource barriers ( e.g., work responsibilities, transportation).
- School teams from communities impacted by an opportunity gap and/or with limited resources for participation in structured leadership opportunities.

## Cost and Contributions

There is no cost for participating in the Emerging Leaders Forum. Funding has been provided by the Bay and Paul Foundations, the McClure Foundation, and the Vermont Community Foundation.

Schools will support the work by providing 2 release days during the school calendar (1 in winter and 1 in spring, and transportation to Forum meetings on those release days) for adults and youth on the team. Schools will work with Forum staff to identify any barriers to youth participation (e.g. transportation) and problem-solve these issues.

