



Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning

Welcome to our December 2018 UPdate!

In this issue: Part II of "Four Feet on the Ground;" Restorative Circles Training; UP's new initiative P4: Personal Power and Purpose Through Partnership; Youth-Adult Partnership in Australia; Getting to "Y" in the news, upcoming workshops ... and more!



Four Feet on the Ground Part II: The Promise of Balancing the Teeter-Totter

"Imbued with purpose and hope, youth-adult partnership brings out our 'best selves.' All parties are fully empowered to work in community toward a shared goal."

-Dr. Helen Beattie, Executive Director, UP for Learning

Restorative Circles Training in Montpelier

As part of their work with ***Transforming School Culture Through Restorative Practices*** youth-adult teams from eleven middle and high schools, gathered in Montpelier at the end of November to spend the day with guest facilitator, Annie O'Shaughnessy (www.truenatureteaching.com) learning about and experiencing Restorative Circles. Participants



Find out more about Restorative Practice through UP for Learning

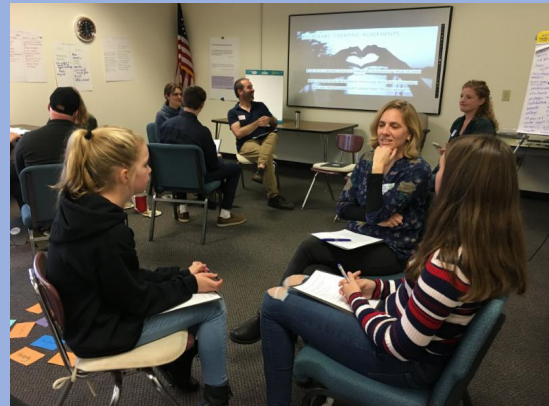
gained deeper understanding of Restorative Circles and their form, function, and purpose as they trained to be Circle Keepers (facilitators of Restorative Circles) for their schools.

This training provided youth-adult teams the foundation to help them shift their school cultures to one of equity and shared responsibility.

ANNOUNCING! P4: Personal Power and Purpose Through Partnership

UP for Learning is excited to share Personal Power and Purpose through Partnership (P4) for middle schools throughout Vermont. P4 is an advisory curriculum that harnesses elements of the experiential learning cycle to build self-awareness, empathy, empowerment, and intrinsic motivation – the fundamental skills for personalized learning.

During this fall's successful pilot launch with Williamstown Middle School, UP staff have provided a curriculum guide and regular on-site coaching to support customized implementation. Faculty receive graduate credit for their investment in building a vital learning community and strengthening student communication, self-advocacy and civic engagement skills.



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[Learn more about P4](#)

Announcing for Spring 2019

Champlain Valley Educator Development Center (CVEDC)

Youth Voice & Youth Adult Partnership Professional Development Series



A CVEDC Series



A CVEDC Event

Youth Voice and Youth-Adult Partnership

Dr. Helen Beattie and UP Faculty Harry Frank will explore why it is particularly important at this time in Vermont's history to build school cultures where we "listen to, learn from and lead with" our students in order to fulfill the promise of personalization and proficiency-based learning.

February 5, 19 or 21, 2019

[Learn More](#)

Understanding the Dynamics of Student Voice and Aspirations with Dr. Lisa Lande

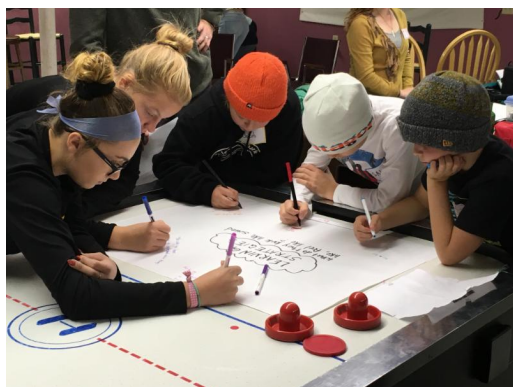
Dr. Quaglia and Dr. Lande will discuss the Aspirations Framework and the Student Voice Model. These strategies bring coherence to the sometimes disparate efforts of schools to create a healthy teaching and learning environment.

February 4, 2019

[Learn More](#)

These opportunities can be linked, providing a natural progression for teams wanting to deepen student/adult partnership in their school.

For information about these opportunities, please visit the [CVEDC Website](#)



Scholarly Habits: Stowe Middle School and Peoples Academy Middle Level

What if we asked youth to redesign the Scholarly Habits of Learning so that all students, teachers and community members truly understood and valued these elements of successful learning?

Stowe Middle School and Peoples Academy Middle Level youth-adult teams are tackling this question with enthusiasm and creativity as they redesign the Scholarly Habits (VT Transferable Skills) for both middle level programs. Using Design Thinking, both teams have explored the first stage of the process "Empathize" by doing research to understand the needs of all stakeholders in their educational communities.

At Stowe Middle School, this involved facilitating a faculty meeting, conducting a survey and interviewing students, staff, administration and community members. Stowe then held a Data Analysis retreat to explore

At Peoples Academy Middle Level (PAML), the youth-adult team began their "Empathize" stage by facilitating a faculty meeting, leading their advisories in activities to explore the Scholarly Habits and conducting a

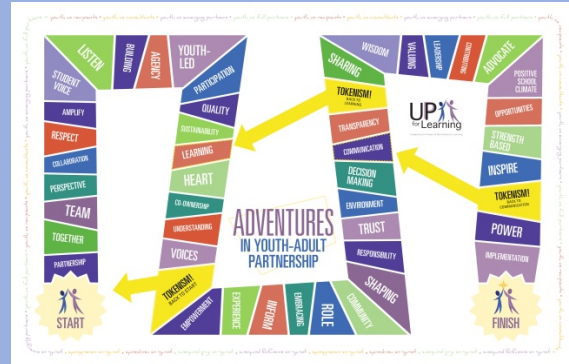
the results of their survey and begin to create an action plan.

survey. PAML will be gathering in January for their Data Analysis retreat and will then develop their next steps in this change process.

Both teams are working hard to ensure that the outcomes of this redesign will be a community that truly values and understands the Scholarly Habits. Students are also learning what it means to be a highly functioning youth-adult team, working in partnership toward a common goal.

UP's Youth-Adult Partnership Roadmap to Agency & Adventures in Youth-Adult Partnership game is the featured cover and resource in this month's edition of the Australian publication **Connect: Supporting Student Participation**

December 2018 issue of Connect



Learn more about Getting to "Y"

Getting to "Y" Initiative Highlighted in VT Department of Health Report

Vermont's Department of Health has identified engagement and empowerment as primary goals for their efforts to promote healthy behaviors among Vermont youth. In **"Adolescents Who Feel They Matter"** the Division of Maternal and Child Health has identified **Getting to 'Y' (GTY)** as a lead strategy to help more youth feel they matter to people in their community. According to their research, *"youth who feel empowered and feel they matter to people in their community are engaged in their own health and well-being in a way that promotes healthy behaviors...and decreases harmful ones."*



UP Delivers Keynote at Wisconsin Conference

In November, UP Executive Director Helen Beattie and Board of Directors member Asah Whalen gave a keynote address highlighting the strengths of Youth-Adult partnership at the Wisconsin Association for Talented & Gifted Students (WATG) Conference. WATG's goal is to create a "climate in the school and community that allows each individual to reach his or her unique potential." The keynote highlighted the powerful change that has come in many districts in Vermont due to the power of Youth-Adult partnership.

"Our kids want us to finally get this right. They have injected the language of *transparency* and *authenticity* and *integrity* into our civic vocabulary. These are fragile words, like all words meant to convey deep truth, at risk of overuse and simplification. Behind them I hear a wise refusal to disconnect what we know from who we are, what we believe, from how we live, and who we are to each other. Such words carry heartbreaking, holy longings for us to see ourselves in our wholeness -- to make the move from intelligence to wisdom, from the inside."

-Krista Tippett

Visit the UP for Learning website!

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