



Unleashing the Power of Partnership for Learning

Welcome to our April 2019 UPDATE!

In this issue... Mastermind Mentors in action, Getting to "Y" project updates, the PBL Forum, ... and more!



Given the success of this pilot year, the Mastermind Mentors initiative will be expanding in the coming year!

Mastermind Mentors: Hazen and Hardwick Elementary School

On the morning of April 2, Hardwick's 3rd grade class anxiously awaited the arrival of their Hazen Union *Mastermind Mentors* – the final visit of the year at the elementary school. The Hazen students had attended a day-long training in the fall to learn engaging activities that reinforce a growth mindset and help their mentees believe in themselves as learners and leaders. Their first visit included a shared breakfast in the cafeteria. The year will end with these 3rd graders visiting their mentors at Hazen Union. The activity this day was to draw your hand and fill it with positive self-talk messages that help sustain you through challenging times.

Learn more about Mastermind Mentors and Opportunities in 2019-2020!

**Youth Move to Action with GTY:
U32 Middle & High Schools and Oxbow High School**



Youth at U32 middle and high school and Oxbow high school are using data to create change. After attending Getting to 'Y' trainings in October, teams led peers through an analysis of their school's YRBS data, while mapping school and community resources that support resilience and build assets. They identified and delved into top strengths and concerns, and then shared their work with their respective communities. Students led dialogue to raise awareness and generate action ideas to address their concerns.

Action is happening! **The Oxbow team** partnered with their student council, food service and administrators to create an in-school food shelf. They hope to reduce the percent of students who experience food insecurity. To eliminate any stigma about using the food shelf, it is open to everyone as an 'exchange' where students can take or leave whatever they would like at any time.



The team is also working with the food service program to explore their idea to box up extra breakfast and lunch items for students to take home or eat after school while waiting for games or buses.

The **U32 Getting to 'Y' team** is taking action to reduce sexual violence among high school students by working with their local domestic violence prevention group. They have a program lined up for April 23rd to explore steps they can take to address this important issue.

Congratulations to these students for using data, youth voice and youth-adult partnerships to create positive change in their schools!

Interested in learning more? Contact
Sharon Koller,
GTU Coordinator
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[Find out more about GTU here](#)

P2 is Next Week! May 1 @ Lake Morey

There is Still Room!

Join youth activists, student leaders and their adult partners from around Vermont who are shaping education that works for all students.

Questions? [Bruce Perlow](#) can help

5TH ANNUAL POWER² Youth and Adults
Shaping Vermont
Education Together
a summit to inform, inspire and move us to action

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 | 9 am-3 pm | Lake Morey Inn & Resort, Fairlee, VT

[For more information & to register](#)

Nearly 100 Celebrate Proficiency-based Learning Successes in Montpelier



Nearly 100 Vermont educators and advocates for proficiency-based learning, personalized learning and flexible pathways of all ages gathered at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier on April 2 to celebrate implementation efforts to date, share success stories, and create a compendium of strategies to build the collective capacity for continued change. One of the event's emcees was Aidan Lodge, a senior at Peoples Academy and a participant and faculty member in UP's Communicating School Redesign initiative. He expressed his belief in the importance of this work:

"I am here today because I believe in equity in opportunity for my generation and those to come, and the crucial role that education has in doing so. All of us here today know that schools are where each generation acquires not only the skills and information necessary for leading productive lives but also where there is potential to form the assumptions and mindsets which can stand in the way of equity. It is our responsibility to ensure that each learner is given opportunity, not only for the individual but for society as a whole."

Throughout this two hour event, participants' commitment to moving to an assessment system based on authentic learning and demonstration of mastery was palpable.

For those who were not able to attend, Orca Media filmed the event:

<https://www.orcamedia.net/show/proficiency-based-learning-forum-4219>

This will air on channel 16 in the Montpelier area on Tuesday, April 23 at 10:00PM and Thursday the 25th at 6:30PM. It is also available for submission to any other local access stations around the state.

Vermont Learning for the Future and UP for Learning are most grateful for the support of the Alchemist Foundation, the Bay and Paul Foundations and the Vermont Community Foundation for making this event possible.

There's still time to register ...

The International Conference on Student Voice: Deepening the Relationship between Youth Research and Practice

Sponsored by the University of
Pennsylvania's Graduate School of
Education in Philadelphia

May 28-30, 2019

We will look at the nexus of research

and practice through a conversation across researchers, youth, teachers, administrators, nonprofit leaders, and more.

Questions can be directed to:
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For more information and to register

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