

Workshop Presenters



Brad Smith, Executive Director - Vermont Learning-Support Initiative

Brad Smith spent many years teaching and working in college environments and the publishing world, helping others to write effectively, including a lengthy stint as an adjunct professor of Writing and Literature at Johnson State College. However, in 2005 all of that changed as he became aware of the substantial nature of his son's learning challenges and dedicated himself to helping him. With his child now a college graduate who works with sixth-graders in a Boston public school, Smith started Vermont Learning-Support Initiative in 2016, hoping to make the journey easier for other challenged teens and their families than it was for his. He has a deep appreciation for the college experience, which is reflected in VLSI's distinctive support framework for neurodiverse learners who aspire to college.



Corey Richardson, Adjunct Faculty, Division of Education and Human Services - Champlain College

Corey began her career in social work with at-risk youth in alternative school settings. In 2011 she completed her MSW at the University of Vermont. Following six months of travel in South America Corey returned to her home in Vermont and founded a non-profit organization dedicated to the disruption of bullying behavior in youth and adulthood and the facilitation of pro-social approaches. She later worked directly in a public school in Vermont helping to implement Restorative Justice practices, followed by two years working in a college support program serving college students with diverse learning needs. Corey has been teaching social work part-time for five years, alongside these other employments, but currently teaches a full-time courseload between Champlain and UVM. Outside of teaching Corey also performs stand-up comedy and enjoys meditation, dance, flower arranging, and the beautiful Vermont outdoors.



Liz Schlegel, Executive Director - The Alchemist Foundation

Liz Schlegel is Executive Director of the Alchemist Foundation. In this role, she is responsible for developing the Foundation's grantmaking approach and portfolio, and for administering Alchemist Opportunity Fund scholarships. Prior to joining the Alchemist, Liz was communications director at the Institute for Sustainable Communities, a global nonprofit, and at Capstone Community Action; she also spent many years in the private sector in communications and marketing roles. She serves on the Advisory Council of Main Street Alliance Vermont and volunteers for Emerge Vermont, Harwood Strong, and the Global Campuses Foundation. She is a JP and chairs Waterbury's Board of Civil Authority.



Joyce Cellars, Associate - CPG Enterprises

Joyce Cellars is a development professional with 10 years of experience in donor relations, community engagement, and marketing. She particularly enjoys helping clients meet their fundraising goals by creating effective and sustainable work plans, building lasting and authentic relationships with donors and beneficiaries, engaging Board members, and developing a culture of philanthropy within their organizations. She lives with her husband and daughter in Burlington, Vermont.



Liam Danaher, Student Engagement Coordinator - Vermont Student Assistance Corporation

Liam Danaher, M.Ed., is a lifetime Vermonter with nearly a decade of career and college counseling and work experience at VSAC. With a specialty in higher education and financial aid, Liam brings a student centered approach to post secondary planning.



Kathleen Hentcy, Mental Health & Health Care Integration Director - Department of Mental Health

Kathy Hentcy is the director of mental health and health care integration for the Department of Mental Health. She has worked to bring the information about the Adverse Childhood Experiences to Vermont since 2010, when she first read the ACEs study and learned of the links between early adversity and later risky behaviors and poor health outcomes.

Kathy has a master's degree in science journalism and was a reporter for 14 years, before starting her work with the state. She is passionate about implementation of scientific research on well-being, particularly that about toxic stress and resilience.



Bobbi Jo Stellato, Program Director - The Mentor Connector

Bobbi Jo is the program director at The Mentor Connector, located in Rutland, and has been with the program for the past five years. She has an educational background in psychology, and prior to being in the mentoring field was a crisis advocate for a local domestic and sexual violence shelter. Bobbi Jo loves working with individuals and empowering them to reach their goals. In addition to her love of mentoring, she also enjoys writing poetry, hiking, and spending time with her two children, who are 18 and 22 years old. If you would like to know more about Bobbi Jo or get in touch, she is most accessible via email at bobbijo@mentorconnector.com.



Kreig Pinkham, Director - Washington County Youth Services Bureau

Kreig Pinkham is the Executive Director of the Washington County Youth Services Bureau and the former Director of the Vermont Coalition for Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (VCRHYP). Kreig has served as a Statewide and National leader for youth service issues. He served as the Chair of the National Network for Youth's Youth Policy Council and served on that organization's Board of Directors. He has been an active member on Vermont's State Advisory Group for Juvenile Justice for 15 years, and is currently chairing that group. He also developed and led efforts to create and sustain the Vermont Working with Youth Conference for over a decade and currently sits on the Vermont Youth Thrive implementation team. In addition to his commitment to youth care work, Kreig is a NAUI certified scuba instructor and avid underwater photographer active in several ocean conservation efforts.