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...by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs.

Message from the Board

Useful Links

Dear vtTA Members & Supporters,

Vermont is home to innovative technology products and services and to individuals and organizations that help define the state as a place where technology businesses and careers can thrive. Recognize a technology innovation or ambassador by submitting a nomination for a **Tech Jam Award**. You, your business or organization, or those you admire could receive one of this year's "Jammies." But only if you apply. Don't hesitate if you've applied before - a second or third try can be the charm. Find the nomination forms at the Tech Jam site [here](#).

A successful software or hardware product is one that is both innovative *and* easy to use. In our **Sept. Lunch & Learn**, guest speaker Everett McKay will discuss why user-friendly product design - more than its technology features - is the key to success, using Apple and Steve Jobs as a case study. This session on user experience design will be of interest to both technical and non-technical folks alike.

There have been some recent changes and new additions to the Vermont Technology Alliance board of directors. In leadership roles are Matthew Dodds of Brandthropology, board president; Mark Heyman of Logic Supply, secretary; and Alex Meyer of Renaissance Information Systems, treasurer. Joining the board are Marlon Branicki of MyWebGrocer, Emily Piper of Agilion, and Lars Hasselblad Torres of Generator. You can find a list of vtTA's board members [here](#).

Jeff Couture

Executive Director, Vermont Technology Alliance

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Upcoming Events

vtTA Lunch & Learn: Creating Well-Designed Products - Learning the Right Lessons from Steve Jobs

Become a Sponsor

We have sponsorship opportunities in our newsletter,

[September 23, 2015 - CCV, Winooski]



Everett McKay, an expert on user experience (UX) design, will discuss why technology-focused product design no longer works in a world where customers want to love the products they buy and use. Apple is an example of a company that has demonstrated that having a great user experience captures both customer loyalty and profits. Using Steve Jobs and Apple as a case study, Everett will present the key UX design insights that are relevant to today's technology leaders and developers.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Champlain Mini Maker Faire

[September 26-27, 2015 - Shelburne Farms Coach Barn]

The Champlain Mini Maker Faire showcases all that is creative and innovative in the maker community. Champlain Maker Faire acts as a catalyst to grow making across the region in communities, libraries and schools, to create networks and resources for aspiring and experienced makers, and to expand other celebrations of making.

You can find more information [here](#).

Health IT Summit 2015: Transforming Health Care Through Technology

[September 30 to October 1, 2015 - Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Burlington]

Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc. is hosting Summit '15 - one of New England's top conferences for the health information technology industry.

This two-day event will offer sessions and panel discussions focused on health care consumers, health information technology, clinical IT, health IT innovators, and health care policy.

Click [here](#) to find out more and to register.

Manufacturing Day

for our Lunch & Learn and social events, on our website, and much more.

Click the link below to contact us.

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[October 2, 2015 - Multiple locations]

Manufacturing Day is Oct. 2 as part of October as Manufacturing Month. Several Vermont manufacturing businesses are opening their doors and hosting events to highlight the importance of manufacturing to Vermont's economy.

You can find the schedule [here](#). Businesses interested in hosting an event, can sign up [here](#).

HackVT

[October 9-10, 2015 - VCET@BTV, Burlington]



This year's annual HackVT event focus is "Hack the Climate." Competing teams will be challenged to build a killer app that will help Vermont meet its goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. \$20,000 in cash and prizes (and a better environment) will be up for grabs.

For more, click [here](#).

4TH Annual Ignite Burlington

[October 15, 2015 - The Film House at Main Street Landing, Burlington]

Adam Hergenrother and the Hergenrother Foundation are hosting the 4th Annual Ignite Burlington, an event, designed to inspire, educate, and entertain. Ignite is a forum where speakers share their passion projects and inspirational success stories in five-minute talks.

For more information, click [here](#).

Vermont Tech Jam

[Oct. 23 and 24, 2014 - Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Burlington]



The vtTA and Seven Days organizes this two-day job fair and tech expo that brings together Vermont's leading tech companies. It's an opportunity for job seekers, career changers, students and others to talk with recruiters, attend presentations, and discover Vermont's innovative

tech businesses. This year's event also coincides with a technical conference on "the edges of innovation in smarter cities," hosted by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. The vtTA will present the Vermont Tech Jam Awards, recognizing a Vermont technology innovation and ambassador.

Vermont Technology News

Bluenrgy Acquires Draker

[September 18, 2015 - Source: Press Release]

BlueNRGY Group Limited announced that it had completed the acquisition of the monitoring platform and certain other assets of Draker, Inc., a leading provider of monitoring and data management services to the U.S. solar industry. BlueNRGY will continue to offer these services under the Draker name and operate from Draker's current location in Burlington. Draker's services are used at approximately 2,000 solar installations in the Americas, Japan and Europe.

For more, click [here](#).

Norwich University Tests Cyber Gaming Software with Financial Institutions

[September 17, 2015 - Source: press release]



Norwich University Applied Research Institutes (NUARI) tested its cyber gaming software this month with approximately 500 participants from more than 80 financial institutions and government organizations in one of the largest financial sector cybersecurity exercises held, called Quantum Dawn 3. Quantum Dawn 3 was organized by the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA), which engaged NUARI to provide a real-world simulation of a large-scale cyber-attack.

For more, click [here](#).

Report Shows Growth in Renewable Energy Jobs

[September 15, 2015 - Source: vtdigger.org]



A new report on Vermont's renewable energy sector concludes that solar energy workers make up more than a third of the state's renewable energy jobs, and employment in that sector grew by 21.8 percent between 2014 and 2015 - the fastest-growing clean energy sector in the state.

For more, click [here](#).

Survey: Some Businesses Looking Outside of State

[September 15, 2015 - Source: vermontbiz.com]

Davis and Hodgdon Associates CPAs' semi-annual economic survey of Vermont-based businesses in July found that 51 percent of those surveyed have considered leaving or making plans to leave Vermont. The survey revealed that finding qualified employees, taxes and health care are key issues for business owners.

For more, click [here](#).

Vermont to Create Economic Development Marketing Plan

[September 16, 2015 - Source: press release]



The Agency of Commerce and Community Development has released a Request for Proposal to procure consulting services to develop a strategic and tactical economic development marketing plan to promote the state of Vermont as a great place to live, work and do business. Act 51, signed into law in June 2015, directed the ACCD to build on the work of the Department of Tourism and Marketing to foster Vermont's growing reputation as a place where entrepreneurs, innovators and businesses of all sizes can start, grow and succeed.

For more, click [here](#).

GlobalFoundries Reducing Staff Via Buy-outs

[September 11, 2015 - Source: burlingtonfreepress.com]



Responding to a downturn in the chip market brought on by China's economic woes, GlobalFoundries is offering voluntary buyouts to most of its employees in Vermont and New York. The company did not reveal a target for the voluntary separations, which it said are in response to a projected downturn in contract chip manufacturing revenue through 2019.

For more, click [here](#).

Vermont Studying Use of Bitcoin Technology

[September 8, 2015 - Source: concordmonitor.com]

In many ways, the best part of bitcoin isn't bitcoin - it's the stuff hidden underneath. Vermont thinks it can take advantage of this. Oliver Goodenough, director of the Center for Legal Innovation at the Vermont Law School, says Vermont is exploring taking the block chain protocol that underlies bitcoin and turn it into a tool for government and commerce.

For more, click [here](#).

GS Precision commits to expand in Brattleboro

[August 27, 2015 - Source: vermontbiz.com]

GS Precision announced that it is exploring potential expansion plans at its facility in Brattleboro, following the offer of an incentive package by the state. The expansion retains the company's more than 300 jobs in Vermont and could lead to an increase in hiring at the company, which manufactures precision components and sub-assemblies for aerospace, medical and automotive industries.

For more, click [here](#)

College to Sell Stake in Middlebury Interactive Languages

[August 26, 2015 - Source: sevendaysvt.com]



Middlebury College wants out of Middlebury Interactive Languages, the for-profit foreign-language education venture it formed five years ago with K12, Inc. Middlebury intends to sell its 40 percent stake in the company to K12 by year-end.

For more, click [here](#).

FairPoint will seek deregulation under company 'reboot'

[August 19, 2015 - Source: vtdigger.org]

Beth Fastiggi, the Vermont president for FairPoint, said the company's agreement with the Vermont Public Service Department to expand broadband service to 28,399 homes, issue retroactive credits to thousands of customers' bills, and evaluate regulatory standards will be good for Vermonters.

For more, click [here](#).

Featured Member

Agilion



Agilion creates web-based products for companies.

The Agilion framework is designed to maximize product success by accelerating companies through a mastermind, discovery and creation process.

Clients leverage Agilion's team to take their products to the next level. Beyond building the right products and building the products right; the team coaches clients to identify and eliminate unhealthy stress in product development workflows.

Agilion works best with clients that make a positive impact through their products.

For more information, visit www.agilion.com.

Would you like to see your company highlighted? Know of a company the vtTA should be talking about? Send us an email at newsletter@vtta.org

New Member Update

The Vermont Technology Alliance welcomes **Vermont Information Technology Leaders** and

Continuing Education and Workforce Development at Vermont Technical College as new members.

We welcome individuals and businesses as vtTA members. Members benefit from vtTA's advocacy, programs and services, including discounts on our sponsored events, job postings in our Career Center, and networking and business opportunities. Sign up to be a new member [here](#).

Useful Information & Links

Nominate a Vermont Innovator or Tech Ambassador for the 2015 Vermont Tech Jam Awards

Submit your nominations now for the 2015 Vermont Tech Jam awards, sponsored by Merchants Bank. The two awards, presented by the vtTA, recognize Vermont's most innovative tech company and its most enthusiastic tech ambassador. The deadline for nominations is September 29, at noon.

Find nomination forms and award criteria [here](#).

Free Workforce Development Offerings from CCV

The Community College of Vermont will begin offering several free workforce development courses and workshops at five of the College's academic centers across the state. These new training programs are designed to equip students with technical skills and industry certifications in high-demand sectors, with a focus on manufacturing, technology, business applications, and health and human services. CCV has worked with business leaders around the state to assess the practical needs of employers and develop training and credential programs that prepare Vermonters to enter the 21st century workforce.

For more information, click [here](#).

UVM Fresh Ideas Breakfast Series

The UVM Center for Leadership & Innovation presents "Fresh Ideas" a breakfast series featuring community thought leaders. These complimentary networking and training forums are held at the DoubleTree Hotel in South Burlington.

Find the schedule [here](#).

SCORE Small Business Roundtable Series

Champlain Valley SCORE is launching its small business roundtable series on the first Tuesday of each month with "Is a Small Business Right for Me?" on Oct. 6, featuring a panel of experts from SCORE, the SBA and local small businesses. This and all SCORE sessions are held at the New England Federal Credit Union offices from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Find more information and the schedule [here](#).

STEM Academy Seeks Help for Web Development Class

A new front-end web development class is starting at the STEM Academy at Essex High School using Treehouse, a self-paced, online programming platform. Local web developers are needed to come into the class periodically to inspire them and to help them with their projects. In addition, tech companies are sought who can provide a 40-hour internship/job shadow experiences.

For more information, click [here](#).

Tax Department Releases Cloud Fact Sheet

The Vermont Department of Taxes has issued a new Cloud Tax Fact Sheet that clarifies the legislation passed this year, and effective July 1, that repealed the tax on remotely accessed prewritten software, commonly referred to as the cloud tax.

For more information, click [here](#).

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