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...by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs.

Message from the Board

Dear vtTA Members & Supporters,

Board chairman John Canning and Jeff Couture from the vtTA met with the Vermont House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development earlier this month in support of a legislative initiatives under development by Rep. Paul Ralston -- called "Code Green" -- to encourage and grow technology and knowledge-based businesses in Vermont. The intention is to implement and build on the recommendations of [Vermont's Software and Information Technology Economy Committee](#) to position Vermont as "a preferred domicile for knowledge-based businesses." Vermont's [Office of the Creative Economy](#) is interested in hearing from vtTA members and supporters about what that might mean. You can [share your thoughts in this survey](#). As the weather warms you may be looking to take on a summer intern. Attend our [next Lunch & Learn session](#) to gain insight into college internship programs and opportunities for Vermont tech employers.

Jeff Couture

Executive Director, Vermont Technology Alliance

Useful Links

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Upcoming Events

Lunch & Learn: Connecting with College Interns

[Apr. 24th, 2013 - PCC's Maple Conference Room]

Many businesses, especially Vermont's technology companies, turn to college interns to help their businesses, bring in fresh ideas, find future employees and support student learning.

The vtTA's next Lunch & Learn will offer insight into college internship programs and opportunities for Vermont employers from guest speakers with Vermont HITEC, Champlain College and Saint Michael's College.

To RSVP, click [here](#)

LUNCH & LEARN

**April Lunch & Learn:
Connecting with College Interns**

Wednesday, Apr. 24th, 2013

Vermont EPSCoR Annual State Meeting

[May 16th, 2013 - Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center]

VT EPSCoR will hold its Annual State Meeting May 16 at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Burlington, Vermont. Presenters will share progress and provide updates on the second year of the Adaptation to Climate Change in the Lake Champlain Basin: New Understanding through Complex Systems (RACC) project.

For more information, click [here](#)

12:00pm - 2:00pm

PCC Maple Conference Room
20 Cascade Way
2nd Floor Champlain Mill
Winooski, Vermont 05404
[Directions](#)

[RSVP](#)

TEDx event in Manchester Village

[Jun. 22nd, 2013 - Burr and Burton Academy]

A TEDx event is scheduled for June 22 in Manchester Village at the Riley Center for the Arts at Burr and Burton Academy. The topic of the event is The Future of Creativity. Organizers have invited ten speakers from diverse disciplines and fields to provide a unique perspective on the theme, including Matt Dodds from vtTA member Brandthropology. This TEDx event will challenge you to have an open mind and ponder the future of creativity.

For more information, click [here](#)

Summer IT Institute for HS Students

[Jun. 22-30, 2013 - Champlain College]

Do you know a high school student ready to explore the world of tech and IT? Then they should check out the Governor's Institute on Information Technology at Champlain College scheduled for June 22-30. Even better, scholarships are available for girls to attend. The event will focus on all this IT, including electronic game design, cybersecurity, coding, digital video, web entrepreneurship, and object-oriented.

For more information, click [here](#)

Vermont Tech In the News

Have News?

State Awards Tech Vault Long-term Data Center Agreement

[Apr. 12th, 2013 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

ATech Vault, Inc. announced today that the State of Vermont Department of Information and Innovation has recently signed a five-year agreement to provide colocation services to support Vermont's data center consolidation and technology upgrade efforts. "We welcome the opportunity to meet the requirements of the State of Vermont's progressive technology and Green initiatives." Tech Vault will use state of the art technology to build a custom data center suite in its South Burlington facility. Tech Vault is a LEED Silver certified data center, that helps support Vermont's Green initiatives to promote growth in next generation technologies and environmentally friendly businesses.

We're interested in keeping members up to date with all technology related news in Vermont. Have a story or event you would like to share? Have a link you believe would be helpful to members? Click the button below to submit your news or event item.

[SUBMIT NEWS](#)

For more information, click [here](#)

FairPoint to Extend Broadband Service in Bradford and Rupert

[Apr. 12th, 2013 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

The Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA) has awarded FairPoint Communications \$182,000 to expand its DSL broadband Internet service to locations currently without access in Bradford and Rupert. "This is another important step in reaching my goal of making broadband available throughout our state," Governor Shumlin said. "FairPoint has been a great partner in helping us achieve this." The grant is focused on 14 addresses in VTA Target Grant Areas. In Bradford, locations on Bugbee Lane are part of the project. In Rupert, addresses on Route 315, Derby Hill Road and Pawlet Mountain Road are included.

For more information, click [here](#)

Vermont Finds High-Tech Ways to Sap More Money from Maple Trees

[Apr. 8th, 2013 - Source: NPR.org]

Maple syrup production grows jobs and allows farmers to make a profit. The old sap collection method of buckets hanging from trees is starting to decrease with the rise of pipelines and vacuum pumps as a way to collect sap. With this method, the number of taps in trees is increased and the sap per tree is approximately doubled. Although the expense of the new technology is fairly high, one farmer was able to gross double the cost so it is worth the investment. This new technology also helps steady the flow of sap despite the unpredictable Vermont weather.

For more information, click [here](#)

UVM Professor Helps Discover Rare Blood Type

[Apr. 4th, 2013 - Source: WCAX.com]

A 60-year-old medical mystery has been solved, and experts say it will make blood transfusions safer for hundreds of thousands of people worldwide. For half a century, scientists have been trying to understand why some patients reject transfused blood, leading to fatalities. But recently researchers found a rare type of blood called Vel-negative. If those carriers receive a Vel-positive blood transfusion, it could easily result in kidney failure and death. Now patients can be screened for this rare blood type and find lifesaving blood for even the rarest of types.

For more information, click [here](#)

Meet Your Matchmaker: An Interview with Lars Hasselblad Torres, Director of Vermont's Office of the Creative Economy

[Apr. 3rd, 2013 - Source: TechJamVT.com]

Vermont is home to a large creative economy of workers who produce a variety of things, from software to film scores. The revenue from these people and businesses has almost doubled in two years. Over the past couple of years, the Office of the Creative Economy (under the Department of Economic, Housing & Community Development) has focused on helping to support and expand these valuable industries. Lars Hasselblad Torres is heading this initiative. He oversees many events relating to the creative economy and he lives locally. The interview discusses the state's interest in developing the creative industries, the opportunities it creates, how the government is able to help, and other innovation questions.

For more information, click [here](#)

VTA Terminates Grants to VT Broadband Provider

[Mar. 29th, 2013 - Source: VPR.net]

A performance problem with a grant has prompted the termination of two grants awarded to the Springfield based broadband provider, VTel. The problem was simply an inability to come to an agreement on the deadline for expanding the service as well as the cost of the project. The grants would have provided broadband to over 900 addresses (a cost of about 3.4 million dollars). It was decided that a resolution would not be reached. VTel plans to serve all homes, but it will use its own money to do so.

For more information, click [here](#)

Logic Supply Welcomes Local High School Robotics Group, Supports STEM Ed. In VT

[Source: VermontBiz.com]

Essex High School and the Center for Technology Essex both partook in the FIRST Tech Challenge (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in South Burlington, Logic Supply's headquarters. The event took place on March 3 and was an extreme version of tic-tac-toe, with robots controlled by two Xbox controllers (one for the arms, one for the wheels). Logic Supply is happy to put on events like this one that showcase the talent of students with a passion for science and technology.

For more information, click [here](#)

Featured Member

MyWebGrocer



MyWebGrocer drives digital connections between consumers, grocery retailers, and consumer packaged goods brands. MyWebGrocer provides leading-edge eCommerce and eMarketing solutions to the grocery and consumer packaged goods industries. Its digital grocery solutions are focused on website design, specialty modules for websites, hosting, sophisticated email strategies and consulting services. Its eCommerce solutions include a full online shopping and store fulfillment system, designed to match the retailer's brand identity. MWG manages digital solutions for more than 140+ retailers nationally, representing more than 10,000 stores, and 200+ major consumer packaged goods brands.

For more information, visit www.mywebgrocer.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

Useful Information & Links

Vermont Election Software Development Opportunity

Sometime in the third quarter of this year, the [Vermont Secretary of State's office](#) will issue a request for proposal to replace the agency's family of election-related software applications. Qualified and interested entities (from inside and outside the state) will be given an opportunity to bid. The state will be open to evaluating bid responses that are based upon existing vendor products and to new development. The development option also contains the possibility of creative licensing arrangements between the state and the state's selected development partner.

The contact for this project is Steve Mattera, steve.mattera@sec.state.vt.us

Know of any resources that would be helpful to vtTA members? Send us an email at newsletter@vtta.org

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