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...by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs.

## Message from the Board

## Useful Links

Dear vtTA Members & Supporters,

The Vermont House Commerce and Economic Development Committee introduced an economic development bill, [H.736](#), which contains provisions important to Vermont technology businesses. The bill is spearheaded by Representatives Paul Ralston (Middlebury) and Heidi Scheuermann (Stowe) and is modeled on the recommendations made to the Legislature by [Vermont's Software and Information Technology Economy Committee](#), on which the vtTA participated. The vtTA supports H.736 and its major recommendations targeted to help tech and "knowledge-based businesses," including loan programs, investment tax credits, changes to the Vermont Economic Growth Incentive program, elimination of taxes and fees for startup companies and more. A summary of the sections in H.736 is [here](#). VtTA members are encouraged to let Jeff Couture, [jeffcouture-vtta@comcast.net](mailto:jeffcouture-vtta@comcast.net), know what they think of the bill, including what provisions are most important.

The Vermont Technology Alliance is producing a new edition of "Tapping Tech"- and we're offering opportunities to [participate as an advertiser/sponsor](#) to promote your business or organization and support this popular publication. Please contact Jeff Couture by Feb. 28 to secure a spot in Tapping Tech.

And plan to join us for our [Feb. Lunch and Learn event](#), where we'll explore Vermont's 'creative economy' and the role of the state's technology sector with Lars Torres, director of the Vermont Office of the Creative Economy.

### Jeff Couture

Executive Director, Vermont Technology Alliance

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## Upcoming Events

### Lunch & Learn: Vermont's Office of the Creative Economy and the Tech Sector

[Feb. 26, 2014 - Champlain Mill, Winooski]

The vtTA's February Lunch & Learn session looks at Vermont's 'creative economy' and the role of the state's technology sector. Lars Torres, director of the Vermont Office of the Creative Economy will discuss the importance of the creative economy in Vermont and how the office supports a creative ecosystem - with an emphasis on how the tech community can connect and contribute.

For more information, click [here](#)

## Vermont Tech In the News

## Have News?

### Davis & Hodgdon Survey: Vermont Businesses See Slow, Steady Recovery

[Feb. 24, 2014 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

While the Vermont economy is expected to see positive growth, according to a survey of Vermont businesses, some of the same issues which have weighed on local firms, such as taxation and health care, will continue to do so.

For more information, click [here](#)

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](#)

### Town-By-Town Tally of Addresses Without Broadband

[Feb. 14, 2014 - Source: VPR.net]

According to the State of Vermont, nearly 3,000 Vermont addresses do not have access to broadband. The state includes cable, DSL, fixed wireless, mobile wireless and fiber networks in its tally, but does not count satellite internet service. VPR recently published a chart that shows the number of addresses in each town which, according to the state, don't presently have access to broadband.

For more information, click [here](#)

### Notes from the 2014 'State of the Tech in Vermont' Event

[Feb. 13, 2014 - Source: TechJamVT.com]

On January 28, President Obama delivered his State of the Union address. Before it began, a group of techie types gathered at ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center in Burlington to discuss the "State of the Tech" in Vermont. The discussion was organized by KSE Partners and sponsored by the Vermont Technology Alliance, Local 64, Google, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce and Seven Days.

For more information, click [here](#)

### UVM Plays Major Role in Burlington's Tech Hub Status

[Feb. 11, 2014 - Source: UVM.edu]

Techie.com's recent designation of Burlington as one of the country's most promising tech hubs adds to a long list of national accolades for the city, creating a buzz that could attract even more businesses and investors, according to Vermont technology and economic development experts. The attention also further highlights technology and economic development partnerships between the University of Vermont, the city and the state.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## How Hackers and Makers Are Helping Vermont

[Feb. 11, 2014 - Source: TechJamVT.com]

If you haven't heard of hackathons and makerspaces before, you will soon. These open-to-all events and spaces are increasingly important parts of Vermont's vibrant, prosperous tech scene.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Got Broadband? State Says You Do Even if it's from a Cell Signal

[Feb. 10, 2014 - Source: VPR.net]

Vermont officials say just one percent of Vt. addresses are without broadband service, but there are some who question that figure. The state says in most cases those individuals do have access, but it is not from a wire or cable running to their homes.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Calling all 'Vermontpreneurs'

[Feb. 6, 2014 - Source: BurlingtonFreePress.com]

Vermont Economic Development commissioner Lisa Gosselin says Vermont is home to a number of innovative "Vermontpreneurs," and that the state can expand its role as a greenhouse for new business.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Retooling Workforce Development for Job Creation

[Feb. 6, 2014 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

Lawmakers are wrestling with how to best spend the state's limited workforce training money. The House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development is proposing to move the Vermont Training Program and the Workforce Education and Training Fund more toward job creation than job retention and wage growth. The consideration comes as part of broader workforce development strategy in H.852.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## MyWebGrocer Acquires Buy4Now Limited

[Feb. 6, 2014 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

MyWebGrocer announced that it has completed the acquisition of Buy4Now Limited, a private eCommerce software and services company based in Dublin, Ireland. This transaction builds upon MWG's earlier acquisition of Buy4Now's U.S. subsidiary in 2008, and provides MWG the technology platform, personnel, and client base to replicate its business model in Europe.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Vermont Cited as a State Where Tech Salaries Increased

[Feb. 3, 2014 - Source: SFgate.com]

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U.S. tech salaries increased by nearly 3% on average last year, with some places seeing a jump of more than 30%, according to a recent survey from Dice, the tech and engineering career site. On a state level, Wyoming, West Virginia, and Vermont are cited as seeing significant increases, although VT's sample size was less than 100.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Lawmakers Propose Expansion of Tax Credits for Businesses

[Jan. 31, 2014 - Source: VermontBiz.com]

State government needs to do more to help Vermont businesses expand, particularly "knowledge-based" businesses, Representatives Paul Ralston, D-Middlebury, and Heidi Scheuermann, R-Stowe, believe. The two lawmakers are pitching an economic innovation bill, H.736, that would encourage entrepreneurship and boost the state's economy. Many of the recommendations in the bill are geared to helping Vermont tech businesses.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## BioTek Wins 2013 Worksite Wellness Gold Level Award

[Jan. 30, 2014 - Source: Biotek.com]

BioTek Instruments was recently honored with the 2013 Worksite Wellness Gold Level Award from the Vermont Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. As a three-time winner, BioTek will receive the award from Governor Peter Shumlin at the Worksite Wellness Conference on March 27.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Independent Contractors Seek Clearer Employment Status

[Jan. 22, 2014 - Source: VTdigger.org]

A new statutory definition of "independent contractor" is in the works in Vermont Senate bill S.220. The effort is driven in part by Vermont's burgeoning creative economy, including game designers, computer programmers and website developers, according to Secretary of Commerce Lawrence Miller.

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Route 802, Summit Technologies and VTEL Form Vermont Gigabit Wi-Fi Partnership

[Source: PitchEngine.com]

Route 802, Summit Technologies and VTEL Data Networks have announced an agreement to deliver a unified network of community Wi-Fi hotspots and hotzones throughout Vermont. The Wi-Fi locations will provide secure access to the Internet with initial connection speeds of up to 100MB.

For more information, click [here](#)

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**Featured Member**

## Champlain College



Since 1878, Champlain College has provided career-focused education to students from its Burlington, Vt. Campus, with additional campuses in Montreal, Quebec and Dublin, Ireland. Champlain's distinctive educational approach embodies the notion that true learning only occurs when information and experience come together to create knowledge. Champlain offers traditional undergraduate and online undergraduate courses, along with online certificate and degree programs and eight master's degree programs. Champlain College is included in the Princeton Review's The Best 378 Colleges: 2014 Edition. Champlain also was named a "Top-Up-and-Coming School" by U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges and is ranked in the top tier of 2013 Regional Colleges in the North.

For more information, visit <http://www.champlain.edu>.

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](mailto:newsletter@vtta.org)

## New Member Update

The Vermont Technology Alliance continues to welcome new members to the organization. Among those joining last month is [NUARI - Norwich University Applied Research Institutes](#).

## Useful Information & Links

### Government Contracting Matchmaking Event

The Vermont Small Business Development Center and other organizations are sponsoring the 2014 Matchmaker Event on Thursday, March 6, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Burlington. This is a networking event where Vermont small businesses will have the opportunity to meet the procurement and prime contractors and representatives from state and federal government agencies in a series of 10 minute one-on-one appointments.

For more information, click [here](#)

### Peak PitchVermont

VtTA member Fresh Tracks Capital is hosting its ninth annual Peak Pitch Vermont competition and networking event at the Sugarbush Ski Resort in Warren, VT on March 6. Peak Pitch brings together entrepreneurs and investors for a fun day of skiing, networking and fundraising.

For more information, click [here](#)

Know of any resources that would be helpful to vtTA members? Send us an email at [newsletter@vtta.org](mailto:newsletter@vtta.org)

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