

From: [Talbert, Lilly](#)
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Subject: VCW VIEW: May 8th
Date: Friday, May 08, 2015 4:05:54 PM

[The Vermont Equal Pay Compact](#)

We recently noted [this Vermont story addition](#) to the U.S. Department of Labor's blog by Jennifer Kimmich, the owner of the Alchemist Cannery, brewer of Heady Topper. Jennifer was one of the first employers (after the State of Vermont) to sign on to the [Vermont Equal Pay Compact](#). Launched by Governor Shumlin and the Vermont Commission on Women, the Compact is a voluntary pledge employers sign to indicate their commitment to closing the gender wage gap in Vermont. Compact signers commit to taking tangible, concrete action steps tailored to their own workplace. Join the growing list of Vermont employers committed to ending the wage gap! Visit VCW's website and tell us what measures you will take to:

- [Understand the causes of the wage gap](#)
- [Take action to help close the wage gap](#)

"I was proud to make the State of Vermont the first employer to sign on to the compact...I hope more Vermont employers will sign on to this initiative that will help boost wages for Vermont women, improve economic security for women and their families, and make progress towards the overdue right of equal pay for men and women" - Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin

"The wage gap is a deeply complex problem, and it will take all of us working to solve it. Legislation is a powerful tool, policy change and education are critical, but it is the work of the business community and employers across the board that is absolutely essential to closing this gap once and for all." - Vermont Commission on Women's Executive Director Cary Brown

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VCW's Star Wars Connection

[Community-Based Learning: Connecting Students With Their World](#) (Edutopia)

George Lucas' (creator of Star Wars) educational foundation, Edutopia highlighted Montpelier High School as part of their series of "[Schools that Work](#)". Their [video](#) features VCW's legislative intern, Alex Stetter from Montpelier High School in action at the State House. Alex joined us for the full school year, including the 2014 legislative session through the high

school's community based learning program.

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From American Association of University Women: Support Women and Minorities in STEM

Currently in the United States more than 80 percent of all science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) jobs are in the fields of computing and engineering, yet women make up just 26 percent of the computing workforce and 12 percent of the engineering workforce. Reducing barriers that deter women and underrepresented minorities from pursuing academic and career goals in STEM fields isn't just simply the right thing to do; it's the smart thing to do. Learn more about the [STEM Opportunities Act of 2015 \(H.R.467\)](#), which includes substantive efforts to broaden participation in STEM to include women and underrepresented minorities. In these fields, where the number of jobs often outnumber qualified applicants, expanding the talent pool to include more women and minorities would boost job numbers, economic security and our competitiveness in the global economy. AAUW is an [Advisory Council](#) member of VCW.

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The Connectory: Promote Your Summer Camps!

The Connectory is a free online collaboration tool for STEM program providers to find partners based on interests as well as a platform to showcase STEM opportunities to families. Find it [here](#).

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[New England Women's Policy Initiative](#) and [A Call To Action](#)

Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at UMass Boston

John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies

Building on the success of the New England Women's Policy Conference in Boston last fall, the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy is spearheading a multi-year nonpartisan effort designed to ensure women's economic security: the New England Women's Policy Initiative. All conference co-conveners, including the Vermont Commission on Women, are joining in this effort and leading the charge for gender equity in the workplace, the community and the public sphere. Utilizing many different methods to achieve these changes, stakeholders are united by a common belief that expanding economic opportunity and security for women is crucial to developing a strong economy in each New England state and in our region. Read more about the initiative [here](#).

Another outcome of the conference is a document, the [Call to Action: A Policy Framework for Women's Economic Security](#) (PDF 1839 KB) that provides a unifying framework for policy change across the region in five key areas and catalyzes further action. Proposed by the conveners of the fall 2014 conference, the Call to Action was revised and strengthened by

facilitated feedback sessions with conference attendees.

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Status of Women in the States 2015: Health & Well-Being, Reproductive Rights, and Violence & Safety

Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR)

This third release in IWPR's series, Status of Women in the States: 2015, analyzes data related to women's health and safety, including health behaviors, mortality from chronic disease, access to reproductive health care, and exposure to violence. Learn more [here](#), Vermont data page [here](#).

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Bluebird BBQ Community Night to Support Planned Parenthood of Northern New England (PPNNE)

Wednesday May 27th: 4:30 p.m. to close
317 Riverside Ave., Burlington

Bluebird Barbecue will donate 10% of the entire evening's sales to PPNNE. Reservations: visit bluebirdbbq.com or call 802-448-3070.

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Documentary - Someone You Love: The HPV Epidemic

Wednesday June 3rd: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Davis Auditorium at UVM Medical Center, Burlington

Allison Hicks, Founder and Executive Director of the Hicks Foundation, along with filmmakers Frederic Lumiere and Mark Hefti present a free showing of their film Someone You Love: The HPV Epidemic. Narrated by tennis star Vanessa Williams, Someone You Love reveals how dangerous this virus can be, potentially causing six different types of cancers in both men and women. Look for the PPNNE table and info on cervical cancer.

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[Voices Against Violence / Laurie's House](#)

St. Albans, Vermont

Support the women in your life this Mother's Day with a donation to Voices Against Violence. Some wish list items include: food cards, gas cards, phone cards, gift cards, towels, baby

monitors, first aid supplies, cleaning supplies, pillows, paper towels, napkins, facial tissue, child bed rails, women's hair products, feminine products, children's games (crayons, coloring books), puzzles, office supplies, pots, and pans. Please direct donations and questions to 802.524.8538, and financial donations can be made through their [website](#) or mailed to: P.O. Box 72, St. Albans, VT 05478.

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Act 166 Webinars

(Act 166 provides universal publicly funded prekindergarten education for a minimum of ten hours per week for 35 weeks annually for all 3, 4 and 5 year-old children who are not enrolled in kindergarten.)

Understanding Head Start in Vermont's Universal Prekindergarten Education System

Thursday, May 28, 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Webinar participants will learn about Head Start's services, funding, and Program Performance Standards. Head Start programs may participate in Act 166 as a Vermont-approved prequalified prekindergarten education program.

Serving Children with Disabilities in a Public Pre-K Program

Thursday, June 4, 3:00 - 4:00 pm

This webinar will focus on school district responsibility to provide special education and related services and supports to resident children 3, 4 and 5 years of age with disabilities who participate in school-based, school-operated or public pre-k partnership programs within and outside of the school district's jurisdiction.

[Click here](#) to register and [here](#) for the latest information on the Agency of Education website.

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[Vermont Early Childhood Alliance](#) Annual Membership Meeting

Tuesday, June 9th from 2:00 - 5:30 pm

Three Stallion Inn in Randolph

Join advocates around the state at for an afternoon of reflection on the Alliance's accomplishments from the previous year and a look at our work together in the year ahead. Review the following agenda and click [here to RSVP](#).

2:00 – 2:20 Member Orientation

2:30 – 2:40 Annual Membership Meeting Begins: Welcome and Introductions

2:40 - 2:55 Steering Committee Elections

2:55 – 3:25 Accomplishments Review and Evaluation

3:25 – 3:45 Planning for 2016 Legislative Agenda

3:45 – 4:00 Engagement in the Issues

4:00 – 5:15 Social Hour

4:00 – 4:30 Steering Committee Meeting

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[Preventing Child Sexual Abuse In Youth-Serving Organizations: Guidelines for Managers & Parents](#)

[National Center for Victims of Crime](#)

Child sexual abuse affects 8%-20% of the child population under the age of 18. The guide available for order (\$25) contains information on the scope of the problem, offender and victim characteristics, resources and tools for parents, and an institutional response model that includes pre-employment screening, supervision of staff, reporting policies, and physical design controls available to organizations. This important resource provides critical information and tools to those serving youth in an effort to prevent child sexual abuse. This guide is published jointly by The National Center for Victims of Crime, Liability Consultants, Inc., and the National Crime Prevention Council. Learn more [here](#).

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[Prevent Child Abuse Vermont \(PCAV\)](#)

For over 38 years, PCAV has been working effectively to prevent child abuse and neglect through parent education, support and public awareness. Check out their site [here](#).

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Vermont Historical Society's "Drinking About Vermont History"

Friday, May 15th, 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Vermont History Museum, 109 State Street, Montpelier

Taste beer from Vermont craft brewers while enjoying an adults-only night at the museum. You'll learn more about Vermont's history of beer and other alcohol, meet other cool like-minded adults, and have a great Friday night out. We'll also provide tasty hors d'oeuvres through the evening to supplement your beer tasting. At 6:45 pm, Adam Krakowski, author

of Vermont Beer: History of a Brewing Revolution will speak about the history of the craft beer industry in Vermont. We'll also auction off a selection of rare and hard-to-find bottles from Vermont's brewers as a fundraiser for the Vermont Historical Society. Participating breweries are The Alchemist, Lost Nation Brewing, Switchback Brewing Company, Trapp Family Lager, and Vermont Pub and Brewery. Please note: we will be checking your ID when you arrive at the museum, and you will not be allowed to proceed without a valid ID showing that you are over 21 years of age. Tickets [here](#) or by calling (802) 828-2180. Prices are \$35 for the general public, and \$25 for members of the Vermont Historical Society.

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Save the Date Notice

Senator Leahy's 19th Annual Women's Economic Opportunity Conference (WEOC) Saturday, September 19th at Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center

Every year this free conference draws hundreds of women from throughout Vermont to take part in a full day of workshops and to hear inspiring speakers share stories of challenge and success. In the interest of making the conference accessible to all, there is no charge for registration, lunch or pre-arranged child care. More details will soon follow, including announcement of the keynote speaker and registration link. For now, hold that fall Saturday aside and visit the Senator's [website](#) to see offerings from last year's conference and to learn more about the WEOC tradition.

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[Vermont Commission on Women \(VCW\)](#)

VIEW Message – [Vermont Information Exchange for Women](#)

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[800-881-1561 Website](tel:800-881-1561) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [NEW: VT Equal Pay Compact](#)

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