

In this issue: [News & Resources](#), [Chair's Corner](#), [Employment Opportunities](#), [Upcoming Events](#)

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VIEW

Vermont Information Exchange for Women

Newsletter



Thursday, June 25th, 2020

News & Resources

Updated Digital Resource Guide

We have reorganized and added new [Anti-Racism](#), [New Americans](#), & [Racial Justice Organizations](#) sections to our [digital resource guide](#) covering more than 20 topics.

Share your COVID-19 story with VCW!

[We want to hear your story in your own words.](#) Whether you are in quarantine or sheltering at home, an essential worker, or just lost your job, home with kids or living alone, at risk yourself or caring for someone at risk, adjusting your business model, or your college plans, your story is unique and valuable.

We want to hear about the multiple and complex ways COVID-19 impacts you, including the loss of childcare; lost wages and employment status; increases in domestic or sexual violence; lock-down of elder care facilities, and impacts on business. Your story might help increase public awareness, inform or inspire public policy, enhance state government's response and recovery, and perhaps

restructure and reimagine systems!

New data-dashboard: The COVID-19 Crisis and Vermont Women

VCW has released a brand new [data dashboard report](#) focusing on the ways the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately and uniquely impacted women.

"The economic downturn associated with the pandemic makes women more vulnerable to financial instability," said Cary Brown, the commission's executive director, "Our dashboard reveals that a higher percentage of April's unemployment claims were made by women: 46% vs. 40% by men.

The Commission's Data Management Coordinator, Anna Brouillette, commented on those disparities, "Ongoing gaps for Vermonters of color - both in COVID-19 case data and in the disproportionate wage gaps experienced by women of color in our state, remind us of the importance of examining and discussing the nuance and complexity of women's experiences."

VCW comments on new Title IX Regulations

In May, the US Department of Education announced new regulations to Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, governing how educational institutions, including colleges and universities, respond to allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. [VCW offers comments on the regulations](#) in our latest blog post.

VCW seeks Commissioners for terms beginning July 1

The Vermont Commission on Women is seeking applicants for appointment to the Commission, for terms beginning July 1, 2020.

VCW is an independent, nonpartisan state agency dedicated to advancing rights and opportunities for women in Vermont. We're seeking people of all genders and backgrounds who are passionate about dismantling structural inequities; dedicated to improving economic, social, health, and legal conditions for women; and committed to a vision of Vermont that embraces all its citizens.

Commission members guide our work, set priorities, and direction, and establish policy positions. Commissioners are volunteers but are usually eligible for per diem compensation and mileage reimbursement.

Our work is best when a rich array of voices are included. People of color, people from working-class backgrounds, people with disabilities, men, young people, and LGBTQ+ people are encouraged to apply.

For more information, and application instructions, please email Cary Brown at cary.brown@vermont.gov. Please share widely!

Census 2020: Vermont's Low Response Rate & Counting Amid a Pandemic | VPR

Just over half of Vermont residents have responded to the 2020 census. Passing the halfway mark is an important milestone, but still leaves the Green Mountain State with one of the lowest response rates in the country for the once-a-decade head count. [Vermont Edition looks at why Vermont's lagging behind](#), how census takers are working to improve the count and how they're reaching hard-to-count groups amid a global pandemic.

New inmate at women's prison tests positive – after contacting three others

[An incoming inmate tested positive for Covid-19 at Vermont's only women's prison on Saturday after coming into contact with staff and other prisoners, the Scott administration announced Monday morning](#). Agency of Human Services Secretary Mike Smith said facility-wide testing is now underway at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility, per Vermont's policy of conducting blanket testing whenever a positive case is linked to a group living facility.

Congratulations to UVM Professor Emily Bernard, Named a 2020 Andrew Carnegie Fellow | Seven Days

The University of Vermont English professor is fresh off winning the Christopher Isherwood Prize for autobiographical prose in the Los Angeles Times 2020 Book Prizes competition. That was one of numerous accolades for her 2019 collection of autobiographical essays *Black Is the Body: Stories From My Grandmother's Time, My Mother's Time, and Mine*. [Bernard was named a 2020 Andrew Carnegie Fellow by the Carnegie Corporation of New York](#). The fellowship includes a \$200,000 prize, given to scholars to support "research in the humanities and social sciences that addresses important and enduring issues confronting our society."

Let's Grow Kids releases Anti-Racism Resources page

[The new page](#) features action steps, resources for families, and resources for early childhood educators.

Kathryn Dungy: Dear white friends | VTDigger Commentary

"Dear white friends:
I'm not ignoring you...
well actually I am.
But I need to right now.
It's not about you.
But it kind of is.
I need space.
I have lived my whole life in your space..."

[Read more.](#)

Brattleboro-based SUSU Healing Collective creates BIPOC Land and Food Sovereignty Fund

The [SUSU Healing Collective](#) is a BIPOC led collective in Brattleboro, VT. They are [raising funds to purchase land](#) that will be a safe place for BIPOC in VT and will include educational programming, land access, farming, CSA's and food access, restorative justice, school programs and more.

Q&A: New Burlington Police Commission chair on defunding, oversight authority | VTDigger

Jabulani Gamache was unanimously elected chair of the Burlington Police Commission June 2, just over a week after a white police officer killed George Floyd in Minneapolis, sparking nationwide protests. Now, Gamache is leading the commission as hundreds of members of the public call for cuts to police funding, including a 30% reduction in uniformed officers, removing officers from schools, and the firing of Officers Jason Bellavance, Cory Campbell and Joe Corrow, all of whom are named in the police brutality lawsuits. [Gamache spoke with VTDigger](#) about why he favors cutting the police department budget, why he thinks the commission should have more authority, and why he decided to join the commission.

Bennington Agrees to Settle Racial Profiling Case | ACLU-VT

A civil rights lawsuit brought by Shamel Alexander against the Town of Bennington and its police department [has been settled out of court, with the city agreeing to a \\$30,000 cash settlement to resolve claims of systemic racial profiling by Bennington police](#). This settlement comes two months after the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) issued a series of recommendations for reforming the BPD. The IACP report catalogued numerous deficiencies in BPD, describing a department badly out of step with best practices, exhibiting a “warrior mentality,” and deeply mistrusted by Bennington community members.

Doug Hoffer: The time is ripe to reinvent our public safety system | VTDigger Commentary

“A few years ago, my office examined the total amount spent in Vermont for public safety by state and local governments. We found that a total of \$574 million was spent on public safety in Vermont in fiscal year 2017. We didn’t pass judgment about whether that was too much, too little, or just right. But it is unquestionably a great deal of money. For context, that total equated to roughly 37% of the state’s general fund appropriations that year.

The question for policymakers is whether the current system is optimal. Does it

provide Vermonters with a just and safe society? Is it cost effective? Does it minimize redundancies? Are services equitably distributed around the state? Does it disproportionately affect minority and marginalized populations? How well does the system balance prevention and enforcement?" [Read more.](#)

Wilda White: Vermont Senate's master class in structural racism | VTDigger Commentary

"In essence, the Senate Judiciary Committee has pretended to recommend a statewide policy on deadly force without actually doing so. Rather, it has left it to appeals courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court which has shown a bias in favor of law enforcement, to decide the meaning of the bill's most critical word using rules of statutory construction." [Read more.](#)

Young Vermonters Organize for Social Justice

Young women of color are organizing and leading racial justice movements, rallies and protests during the COVID-19 pandemic in Vermont. [In minutes 2-7, VPR podcast *The Frequency* profiles members of AWARE, a high school group in southern Vermont.](#)

Tom McKone: Why black lives, not all lives? | VTDigger Commentary

"A news photo from a protest in Essex Junction showed three young women holding a large cardboard sign that summarized where we are: "*All Lives Don't Matter Until Black Lives Matter.*" If, as a country, we reach a point where we truly believe and behave as though *Black Lives Matter*, we can put that statement in the history books. We could then paint *All Lives Matter* on our streets and it would be true. But we have a very long way to go, and in the meantime, our mantra needs remain aspirational: *Black Lives Matter.*" [Read more.](#)

Black inmates make up a disproportionate share of Covid-19 cases in prison | VTDigger

Data from the Vermont Department of Corrections shows that while Black inmates were almost 9% of the total prisoners tested for Covid-19 in the state, [they made up nearly 18% of the prisoners who have tested positive for the coronavirus](#). Black inmates were also 2.2 times more likely to test positive than white inmates.

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont offers online Circle of Parents Support Groups

Confidential and convenient, Circle of Parents Support Groups are now being offered online. At Circle of Parents Support Group, talk is about parenting, relationships, and different challenges in life. Jobs, food insecurity, child care problems, lack of housing stability, not having much income and feeling alone, especially now during the pandemic. It can be helpful to know that others share many of the same struggles as we do and how they are managing. All parents and those in a parenting role are welcome. To learn more or sign up, email pcavt@pcavt.org or call the Parent's Helpline at 1-800-CHILDREN (800-244-5373).

Cillo, Lyall, Fay, Levin & Fannon: Allocate CRF funds fairly | VTDigger Commentary

"These funds, as with all state revenues, should be first and foremost used to meet the needs of the people of Vermont and to create a Vermont that works for everyone." [Read more.](#)

Chloe Learey: Child care can open safely and needs continued investment | VTDigger Commentary

"The Great Pause of the Pandemic has given us an important opportunity to make a positive difference in the trajectory of some foundational features of our society including housing, food access, and child care. We have an opportunity to stand together and to work towards creating more equitable systems – starting with early care and learning for our very youngest children. The importance of child care to children, families and our broader community has been strongly amplified during

this time.” [Read more.](#)

VTSBDC COVID-19 Recovery Roadmap

VTSBDC is nationally known for its response to Tropical Storm Irene and they are back again with a recovery roadmap for COVID-19. [Check out their website](#) for the new & improved version.

Women Business Owners Network's COVID-19 Resources

[Vetted, verified information for women business owners, from women business owners.](#) focusing on information for self-employed, micro-business, or small business employers in every sector.

Equity in Stem Education Webinar | National Girls Collaborative Project & SciGirls Connect

Access the recording of [Equity in STEM Education: The Connection to Culture](#) online free to learn about research-based best practices on cultural responsiveness; a powerful approach that spans the cultural divide that often exists between educators and students and allows educators to improve STEM engagement and equity.

Strengthening Working Families Initiative (SWFI) at Vermont Tech

[The Strengthening Working Families Initiative \(SWFI\) at Vermont Tech](#) offers no-cost training in manufacturing and support services to parents of young children. This program paid for by a U.S. Department of Labor grant and offers no-cost training in manufacturing to custodial parents of children 13 and younger and children with disabilities or developmental delays.



Chair's Corner

Lisa Senecal
of Stowe



Face it: Is this who we are? Are we better than this? | Stowe Reporter

"Is this who we are? Are we better than this?"

The answer to that first question is yes, this is who we are, and by "we" I am referring to white Americans. That is an uncomfortable answer. It is not the answer that most of us want to be true, but there is a mountain of evidence composed of black bodies that should be undeniable: George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Alton Sterling, Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, Philando Castile, Michael Brown, Eric Garner. The list goes on and on and on and it has not stopped growing. We, white Americans, must stop denying that, yes, this is who we are."

Employment Opportunities

Clarina Howard Nichols Center seeks part-time Finance Director

The Clarina Howard Nichols Center works to end domestic and sexual violence in Lamoille County. The [Finance Director](#) will manage all financial functions and related HR functions to ensure fiscal responsibility, accountability, and integrity. To apply, send a cover letter and resume to Becky Gonyea at bgonyea@clarina.org.

CVOEO seeks Director of Racial Equity

Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity addresses fundamental issues of economic, social and racial justice and works with people to achieve economic independence. Working with the Executive Director, Administration and Program Directors, [the Racial Equity Director](#) will promote equity in staffing, programs,

training, and policy throughout CVOEO. They will understand the diverse perspectives of stakeholders, represent CVOEO within our community and be committed to addressing systemic change in racial injustice. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

The Loreen Arbus Accessibility is Fundamental Fellowship | Women's eNews

[Women's eNews announced the launch of a new fellowship program](#) that will bring increased attention to the benefits of hiring people with disabilities. Women's eNews will train two interns with disabilities who self-identify as female to research, interview, write, edit and publish articles about the most crucial issues impacting people with disabilities (particularly women and girls). Current topics of consideration include ableism, employment challenges, sexual harassment, and particular issues amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The two interns will be selected for this 12-month initiative, starting August 1, 2020 and will be trained on a virtual accessible platform like Zoom. Applications are due June 30.

Vermont Humanities Council seeks Community Program Officer and Literacy Program Manager

Both full-time, exempt positions, the Literacy Program Manager coordinates the day to day operations of the Vermont Humanities' literacy programs and supports the Director of Programs in developing and evaluating these programs, and the Community Program Officer works on the First Wednesdays lecture series, Fall Conference, and Words in the Woods programs. [Apply by July 12.](#)

Vermont Legal Aid Hiring for Several Attorney & Non-Attorney Temporary Positions

[Vermont Legal Aid and Legal Services Vermont seek to hire](#) several temporary, full-time positions for Staff Attorneys and/or Legal Helpline Community Advocates/Paralegals. They are adding several advocates to staff to meet the community's need for legal help resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

Upcoming Events

Nonprofit Staff Story Circles: Sharing Our Own Stories During this Time of Crisis | Vermont Story Lab

Tuesday, June 30, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Community Date: Conversation on Robin DiAngelo's White Fragility | Northern Stage

Wednesday, July 1, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

White Fragility Four-Part Book Discussion | Peace & Justice Center

Wednesdays, July 1 – 23, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

This is Our Story, This Is Our Story Now: Pivoting to Tell the Story of Our Relevance in a Time of Profound Uncertainty | Vermont Story Lab

Tuesday, July 7, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. OR 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Marketing in Intense Times | CWE

Thursdays, July 9 – 23 & August 6, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Executive Presence for non-Executives. Why you need it and how to get some. | VWHE

Monday, July 13, 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Empowering the Individual & Collective Voice | VWHE

Wednesday, July 15, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Construction of Whiteness Study Group

Tuesdays, July 14 – August 4 at 6:00 p.m., Brattleboro Common



We choose events for VIEW from our [statewide events calendar](#) for women and girls. **If you'd like your event featured in the VIEW, make sure you [add it](#).**

Looking for more? You'll find many more events for women & girls in Vermont on the calendar.



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Forward

The Vermont Commission on Women (VCW) is a non-partisan state agency advancing rights and opportunities for women and girls. Sixteen volunteer commissioners, along with representatives from organizations concerned with women's issues, guide VCW's public education, coalition building, and advocacy efforts. For more information, please visit us at <http://women.vermont.gov>.

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