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VIEW

Vermont Information Exchange for Women

Newsletter



January 20th, 2017

News & Resources

VCW Releases Study Regarding the Feasibility of a Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) Program in Vermont

Economic benefits to women from a PFML program in VT are many, including: increased long-term workforce attachment, an annual childcare savings of between \$1,032 to \$1,747 per working family utilizing the program, an increased likelihood of new mothers returning to work, a decrease in reliance on public assistance, and preventing 1,098 – 3,220 VT workers from sinking below the poverty threshold. [Find all of the highlights from this U.S. Department of Labor funded study here.](#)

Did you know that of the 294 people elected to hold statewide office since 1778, only 11 have been women?

At [VCW's legislative lunch event](#) last week, Change The Story VT released [a sneak-preview](#) of their fourth and final brief, Vermont Women in Leadership. The entire report is expected to be released in March. Other glimpses from the preview include that Vermont ranks #1 in the country in the proportion of women serving as state legislators and women fill 42.86% of assembly leadership positions, but that Vermont and Mississippi are the only states that have never sent a woman to serve in the U.S. Congress.

VCW Welcomes Two New Advisory Council Organizations: [Let's Grow Kids](#) and the [Vermont Early Childhood Alliance](#)

VCW's 27 Advisory Council organizations provide counsel to the Commission on setting goals, strategies and objectives, and share the opinions and perspectives of the organizations they represent.

Recruitment open for 2017 Business Peer Exchange!

The [Business Peer Exchange](#) is a group of dedicated businesses in Vermont working together to ensure women have the opportunity to thrive in their workplaces. Change The Story VT is now recruiting for the 2017 cohort.

Vermont's first 'Female Founders Speaker Series'

Featuring female entrepreneurs from around the state, this speaker series aims to share what it takes to start a company from the ground up. Every month, from January to June, two speakers representing a featured industry will share the story of their business, how to get started, lessons learned, where they hope to go in the future, and more. January's event is already sold out, but will be available to

stream later. Learn more from the [Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies](#).

Catherine Jansen: 1008 exhibit opens 1/31 at the Fleming

American photographer Catherine Jansen has traveled to India over twenty-five times, always with camera in hand. With a profound knowledge of the country, she travels alone and is able to visit places and witness rituals usually inaccessible to foreigners as well as to many Indians, particularly women. [Learn more.](#)

‘Seat at the Table’ video: Education Key for Girls with Disabilities

From Women’s eNews, in this [first of two installments of their Seat at the Table conversation](#), Dr. Sheypuk shares her ascendancy to Ms Wheelchair 2012 and discuss the importance of education. According to Anna Landre’s recent Girl Fuse article, 77 percent of students with disabilities want to continue their education past high school, but only 31 percent had taken college classes within two years of finishing high school. “Go through every window that’s open,” Dr. Sheypuk says.

New Online Tool to get Vermonters to High-Paying Jobs

The website [Pathways to Promising Careers](#) asks questions that direct users to lists of professions including average salaries and descriptions of the jobs, the type of education or credentials needed to qualify, and the Vermont schools that offer them.

Vermont Health Care Panel

Watch video from this [Vermont Health Care Panel](#) with Moderator Tony Klein and guests Deborah Richter, Lindsay DesLauriers, and Susan Barrett, sponsored by the League of Women Voters and Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

Building Bright Futures Publishes The 2016 Edition of the How Are Vermont's Young Children And Families? (HAVYCF) Report

[A useful tool](#) for state and local government leaders, service providers, parents and caregivers, educators, and others interested in supporting a safe, healthy, and prosperous future for Vermont, the report provides a factual depiction of the successes and challenges facing young children and their families.

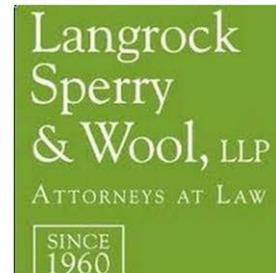
UN Office on Drugs and Crime released the 2016 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

Last month the UN Office on Drugs and Crime released the [2016 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#). The Global Report is currently the only international source of information on victims of trafficking in persons, detailed by age, sex, and form of exploitation in the 136 countries surveyed in the report. Findings include that women and girls make up 71 percent of human trafficking victims, and sexual exploitation and forced labor are the most prominent types of trafficking.

Thank you to our December [Vermont Equal Pay Compact](#) Signers:

- [Burelli Farm Organic Poultry and Meats](#)
- [Conant Metal and Light](#)
- [Langrock Sperry & Wool, LLP](#), and
- [Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club!!](#)

The Compact is a **voluntary online pledge** that enables Vermont employers to learn about and indicate their commitment to closing the wage gap.



Upcoming Events

Greater Burlington Women's Forum Lunch: Re-imagining Justice for Women

Tuesday, January 24 from 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m., Contois Auditorium, Burlington

Join us for a panel discussion about how Vermont's criminal justice system impacts women, and hear some of the efforts underway to support justice-involved women and reduce unnecessary and counterproductive incarceration. Learn about "For the Sake of the Children," the campaign to "De-carcerate Vermont," and Mercy Connections' mentoring program—and what you can do to help. Featuring panelists Suzi Wizowaty, Director of Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform and Pam Greene, Mercy Connections' Director of Mentoring and Justice. Bring a lunch, listen, learn, share, and network with women in our community. [Register to save your seat.](#)

Women United Networking Event

Tuesday, January 24 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Twiggs, St. Albans

Join a group of women committed to improving the financial stability of women in

our community for a casual evening of networking with light appetizers and a cash bar. Brief remarks by United Way of Northwest Vermont executive director Martha Maksym. [Please RSVP.](#)

“All of Me” Film Screening

Tuesday, January 24 at 6:00 p.m., Johnson State College

“All of Me,” a documentary about eating disorders by the Vermont-based Kingdom County Productions and filmmaker Bess O’Brien, [will be screened in Room 207 of Bentley Hall](#). The event is free and open to the public.

Two opportunities to view the new film "Hidden Figures"

Set in 1960s Virginia, the film tells the story of Katherine G. Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe), three pioneering African American women working at NASA, who served the “computers” whose calculations for NASA were integral to several historic space missions, including John Glenn’s successful orbit of the Earth.

SWE Goes to the Movies: "Hidden Figures"

Tuesday, January 24 at 6:25 p.m., Majestic 10, Williston

Join the Society of Women Engineers North Country for a [screening of Hidden Figures](#). Tickets cost \$10.50. Join SWE an optional dinner at 5:00 pm at Asian Bistro in Williston (at your own cost).

Girl Develop It Movie Night: Hidden Figures

Thursday, January 26th at 6:30 p.m., Essex Cinemas

[Join GDI on for a viewing of Hidden Figures!](#) Tickets cost \$6.75 and can be

purchased the night of the event.

Start UP: Comprehensive Business Planning

*January 29 – May 7 on Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.,
and every other Sunday from 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Mercy Connections*

Ready to take action in starting or expanding your business? [This course, offered through Mercy Connections Women's Small Business Program is where you can turn your idea into a reality.](#) Learn the language of business. This action-oriented class is tailored to your individual business, using the business plan as a framework. Taught by a seasoned entrepreneur instructor team and a host of guest experts in three content areas: financials, marketing, and business management.

Become a Girl Develop It Teaching Assistant or Instructor!

*Tuesday, January 31 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies*

Interested in helping more women enter the tech industry? Have teaching experience, or would like to acquire some? Join GDI at [this info session](#) to learn about the exciting teaching and teacher assistant opportunities currently available with Girl Develop It Burlington. Is your employer or organization interested in helping GDI too? There are many opportunities for sponsorship and support.

Vermont Women's Mentoring Program Winter Mentoring Training

Wednesdays February 1 - March 1 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Mercy Connections

Mercy Connections's Mentoring Program matches women volunteers with women being released from prison for nonviolent offenses and is one component of a web

of services to assist incarcerated women as they transition into their community. The program is designed to help women stay focused on the goals they have set for themselves and to assist with identifying the community resources they need to reach their goals. [Become a mentor and support a woman](#) making the transition from prison back into the community and a healthy life.

Bromley's 15th Annual 'Mom's Day Off' Cancer Fundraiser

Friday, February 3, Bromley Mountain, Peru

Moms ski or ride for just \$20 when they show the ticket seller a snapshot of their kid or kids. Once again, [this year's event](#) will benefit the Southwestern Vermont Regional Cancer Center in Bennington.

2017 Welcome Home Women Veterans Ski Appreciation Day

Tuesday, March 7, Mount Sunapee Resort, NH

The VA Boston Healthcare System in partnership with NEHSA and Mount Sunapee are proud to announce the [8th Annual Women Veterans Ski Appreciation Day](#). Women Veterans of all ages and abilities are welcome to register. Space is limited and is a first come first serve basis. *Register by Monday February 27th.*

Vermont Women in Higher Education 2017 Annual Spring Conference

Thursday, March 23 from 1:30 p.m. to Friday, March 24th at 4:15 p.m.

Killington Grand Resort

Register now for the [2017 Vermont Women in Higher Education Annual Spring Conference!](#) Networking, empowering speakers, and a wide selection of workshops

will help you achieve your professional goals. Additional events include a clothing swap to benefit Dress for Success Burlington, a raffle, and more, all at the beautiful Killington Grand Resort. The theme this year is "Strong Women, Strong World." VCW's Cary Brown and Change The Story's Tiffany Bluemle will present "Telling the Story to Change the Story for Women in Vermont: What We've Learned About What's Left to Do".



*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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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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