

State Personnel Development Grant

The Newsletter for Vermont's SPDG

November 1, 2016

Volume 1, Issue 1

16-17 UDL Content

This year's Universal Design for Learning content coaches training will be presented and facilitated by Loui Lord Nelson, Ph.D.

VT PBIS Forum

Read about how schools across the grant are implementing PBIS.

Data Snapshot

Look for the external systems coaches to introduce a Leadership Team self-assessment.

vtMTSS Village

SWiFT is an integral part of VT's MTSS implementation work.

Upcoming Training 2016-2017 Save the Dates!

Registration information coming soon; contact your systems coach with questions.

Math:

- November 17, 2016
- January 27, 2017
- March 9, 2017

Location: VT Technical Center, Randolph, VT

[Register online](#)

UDL:

- December 8, 2016

Location: Capital Plaza, Montpelier, VT

[Register online](#)

Literacy:

[VRI at the University of Vermont](#)

Behavior:

PBIS [Calendar of events](#)

*Only schools that have indicated Literacy as a content focus may attend at no cost.



2016-2017 UDL

The SPDG Management Team is pleased to announce this year's Universal Design for Learning Content Coaches Training, which will be presented and facilitated by Loui Lord Nelson, Ph.D.

Lord Nelson is a former special education teacher whose work focuses on Universal Design for Learning (UDL). She worked directly with teachers as the UDL Coordinator for Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation in Columbus, Indiana for four years before receiving a post-doctoral fellowship at CAST, the institute that created UDL.

While part of her work life is spent as the UDL Specialist for SWiFT (Schoolwide Implementation Framework for Transformation), Lord Nelson also provides guidance on the implementation of UDL to schools, districts, state personnel and universities across the globe, and is the author of the internationally read "Design and Deliver: Planning and Teaching Using Universal Design for Learning."

The UDL project this year will include one full-day statewide conference, scheduled to take place in Montpelier on December 8, 2016, accompanied by both virtual and face-to-face follow-up technical assistance. Ideally, the vtMTSS leadership team along with the UDL coach or a team from schools and/or SU/SDs that include the designated UDL content coach, principal, curriculum coordinator, special education administrator and classroom teachers would attend the full-day training.

To learn more about UDL and Lord Nelson, [listen to her podcast](#). [A transcript of the podcast can be found online](#). The podcast is also available on iTunes.

Spotlight: VTPBiS

In this inaugural edition of the Vermont State Personnel Development Grant's newsletter, we are casting a spotlight upon the Vermont Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (VTPBiS) Leadership Forum. The SPDG/vtMTSS schools across three cohorts make up 37 percent of VTPBiS schools, and we are excited to celebrate the 23 schools that were acknowledged for their work around implementing PBIS in their schools.

Bradford Elementary and Reading Elementary are two SPDG/vtMTSS schools that are exploring PBIS.

Albany Community School, Brookfield Elementary School

Albany Community School, Brookfield Elementary School, Georgia Elementary/Middle, Monkton Central School, and Rick Marcotte Central are all Banner Schools which received initial training last spring or summer and are rolling out PBIS at the universal level this school year.

The SPDG/vtMTSS Management Team is, in part, composed of:

Meg Porcella, AOE SPDG Co-Director
Pat Mueller, External SPDG Co-Director
Karin Edwards, Division Director, ISL
Pre-K – Middle
Debbie Lesure, Asst. Division Director
Cindy Moran, Special Education Director
Kate Rogers, Early Childhood Program Manager
Tracy Watterson, MTSS Program Manager

Spotlight: VTPBiS, Continued

Barre Town Elementary and Middle School, Bristol Elementary, Killington Elementary, Lincoln Community School, Mt. Abraham Middle/High School, Orchard School, Randolph Elementary, Vergennes Elementary and Vergennes UHS are Schools of Recognition which nominated themselves for achievement in areas necessary for successful implementation of the PBIS framework such as Increased Staff Collaboration, Increased Recognition of Positive Behaviors throughout the School, and Increased Ability to Make Decisions Based on data.

Fletcher Elementary, Monument Elementary, and Proctor are all designated as Schools of Merit, which are recognized for Implementing Universal PBIS with fidelity as measured by a score of 70 percent on the Benchmarks of Quality assessment (BOQ) and 80 percent on the Schoolwide Evaluation Tool (SET).

Coventry Village, Pownal, and Sutton were acknowledged as Exemplar Schools, which received recognition for sustaining Universal PBIS implementation with fidelity as measured by a score of 70percent on the BOQ and 80 percent on the SET for two consecutive years. And finally, a special acknowledgement for Miller’s Run—An Exemplar School for four consecutive years!

Congratulations to all of the schools acknowledged at this year’s Forum!

Data Snapshot

We wanted to be sure to include a section devoted to data in every edition of the newsletter. This month, we’re focusing on the Leadership Team Self-Assessment tool that the external systems coaches may be utilizing this fall as they begin to set the focus of the work with leadership teams this school year. We hope that using this self-assessment will become routine practice to support your team’s implementation efforts.

The vtMTSS Village

In the first article of this newsletter, I included a swiftschools.org link to a podcast given by Loui Lord Nelson. SWiFT (Schoolwide Integrated Framework for Transformation) is a national K-8 technical assistance center that builds school capacity to provide academic and behavioral support to improve outcomes for all students through equity-based inclusion as well as an integral part of how MTSS is implemented in Vermont. I encourage you to look into [SWiFT tools online](#).

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The VT SPDG page coming soon to:

education.vermont.gov

