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Vermont Students to Compete in 2nd annual 3D Modeling Event **Students from 30 schools design historic models of towns, buildings**

BARRE, VT – The Vermont Agency of Education, in partnership with a number of other state level organizations, announces the second annual 3D Vermont Architecture and History Olympiad, which will take place on Friday, March 25, in Judd Hall at Vermont Technical College in Randolph, VT from 8:00AM-1:30 PM.

3D Vermont is an annual competition between Vermont schools to create digital 3D-printed models of historic town buildings and study the history and background of the buildings and towns at the same time. Students from 30 schools have been working since October of 2015 to create the structures in SketchUP, a computer drafting and modeling software, and then creating the 3D structures on locally owned 3D printers. Students have researched the buildings and towns and will present their buildings and findings on Friday at the statewide competition in Randolph.

“This project bridges the gap between technology and history, while giving students a sense of place,” said Mike Hathorn, founder of 3D Vermont and lead instructor on the project.

The Vermont Agency of Education has been working with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Hartford School District, SketchUP, CDW-G, CTL Computers, and Vermont Technical College to organize the event. This year saw a doubling of team entries. Event founder Mike Hathorn from Hartford High School has been working diligently with a support team all school year, providing training to get their models ready. Hathorn created the concept of the competition from a project he did several years ago on creating historic town centers online with SketchUP. Speakers on Friday include Governor Peter Shumlin (not confirmed), Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe, Katarina Lisaius, from the offices of Senator Bernie Sanders, and others.

The plan for the day is as follows: School teams arrive between 8:30 and 9AM, placing their models on a gigantic Vermont map that will be on the floor of the gymnasium. Judging will take place around the perimeter of the room with each team showing their work and process in the creation of their models. Speakers will address the group early on between 8 and 8:45. Judges will circulate around the floor over the course of the morning.

For additional information about the days’ activities, contact Peter Drescher at the Agency of Education peter.drescher@state.vt.us or (802) 479-1169

Members of the media are encouraged to attend and students may be available for interview throughout the morning.

For additional information about the day's activities, contact Peter Drescher at the Agency of Education peter.drescher@state.vt.us or (802) 479-1169. For more information about the project, go to <http://3dvermont.org/>.

Follow the event on Twitter at #3DVermont.

Connect with the Vermont Agency of Education on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#). Contact the AOE at 219 North Main Street, Suite 402, Barre, VT 05641, 802-479-1030, or at education.vermont.gov.

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