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Burlington Technical Center

Grant Summary:

The Flexible Pathways Career Advisory grant will help Burlington Technical Center (BTC) develop and deliver professional learning modules that focus on career advising in secondary schools as part of the personalized learning planning process and make connections between secondary school work, career fields, and a career pathways curriculum. Educators from BTC, Burlington High School, Champlain Valley Union HS and Shelburne Community School MS (Hunt MS for grant period 2) will collaborate with professionals from UVM, Champlain College, VT Works for Women, VSAC, GlobalFoundries, and BTV Ignite through experiential and evidence-based professional learning around career advising, the advisory system, and the personalized learning planning process. This project will develop a community of practice model, collaborative team structure, process map, and professional learning modules to be shared with other schools.

Work to Date:

The collaborative workgroup met for two afterschool meetings and two half-day work sessions after the grant lead met individually and with small groups of team members at their respective schools/organizations. The larger workgroup met four times over the initial grant period.

The group engaged as a whole in small-group targeted discussions, and divided into two sub-teams for the module work. Each member of the sub-team had a specialized focus area to contribute to the deliverables.

The group is continuing to work on two professional learning modules (unpacking career pathways and career advisory). The learning modules are structured around essential questions, research and resources, and reflective input from the community of practice activities. The continued work of the group is to build and refine the modules using an inquiry model. They have created an active blog with posts from many of the team members reflecting directly on the inquiry questions from their varying lenses. Meeting minutes and community of practice activities are recorded and ongoing.

Please contact Kris Breen, Program Development Coordinator, at kbreen@bsdvt.org for more information about this work.