
Southern Vermont Workforce Center of Excellence

An employer-driven
workforce system for rural
communities.

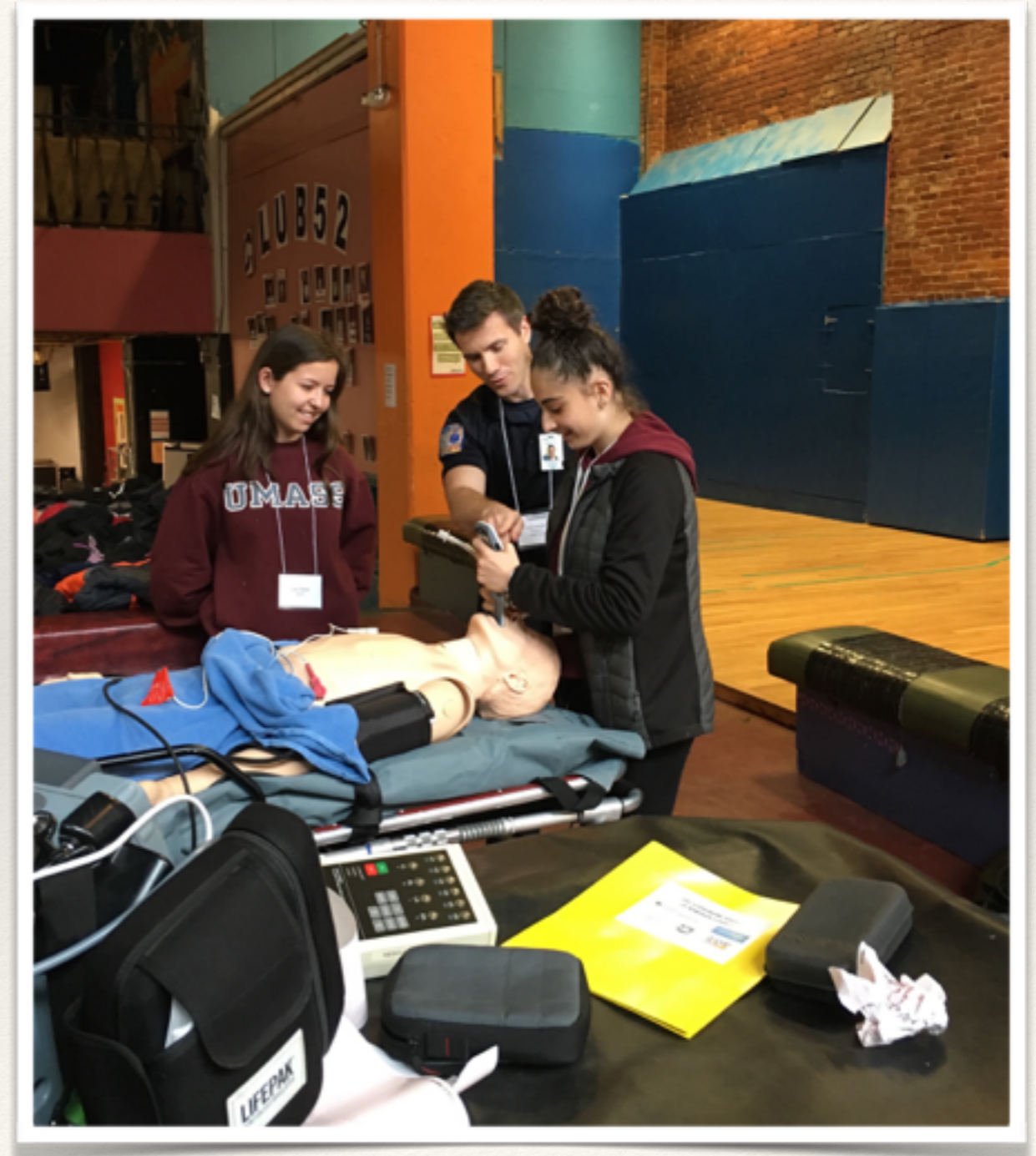


Alex Beck

Workforce & Education Program Manager

What is it?

- ❖ The Southern Vermont Workforce Center of Excellence is a network of Workforce and Education partners aligned behind specific workforce development initiatives that will increase the size and quality of the workforce while raising median household incomes.



Mission & Vision

Vision

Every Vermonter has access to the **education, training, and support** needed to access meaningful, livable wage careers, so that no good job goes unfilled.

Mission

Through multi-sector collaboration, innovation, and dedication, the Southern Vermont Workforce Center of Excellence will facilitate the **Cultivation, Attraction, and Retention** Initiatives needed to increase the size and quality of the Workforce throughout Southern Vermont.

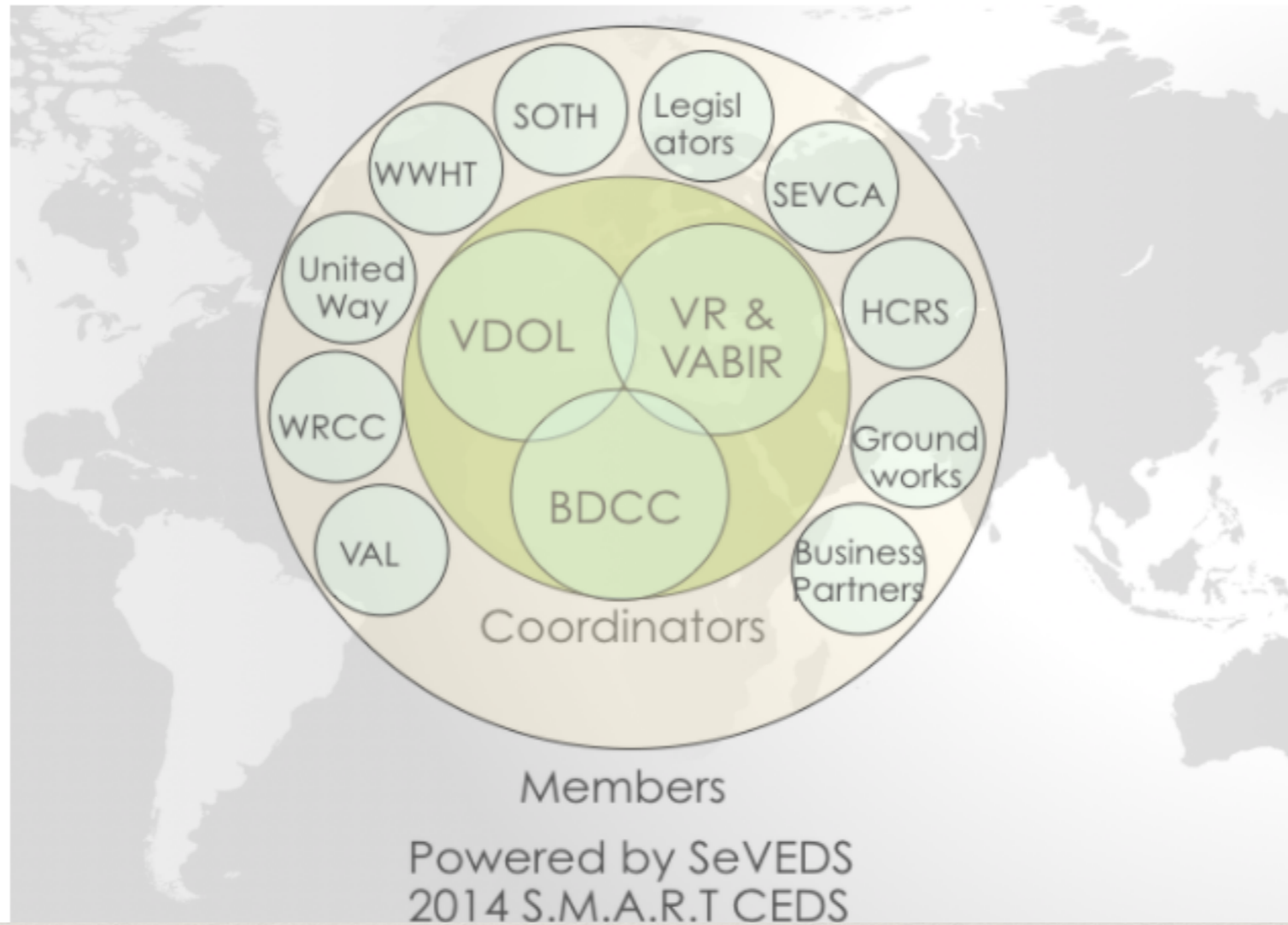
Windham County Overview



- ❖ County Population: 43,858
- ❖ County Seat: 12,000
- ❖ ~\$29,000 Per Capita Income
- ❖ 91% High School Graduation
- ❖ 36% College Graduation
- ❖ Median Age: 46 years old



Workforce Center of Excellence Network Structure



How to turn this ^^^

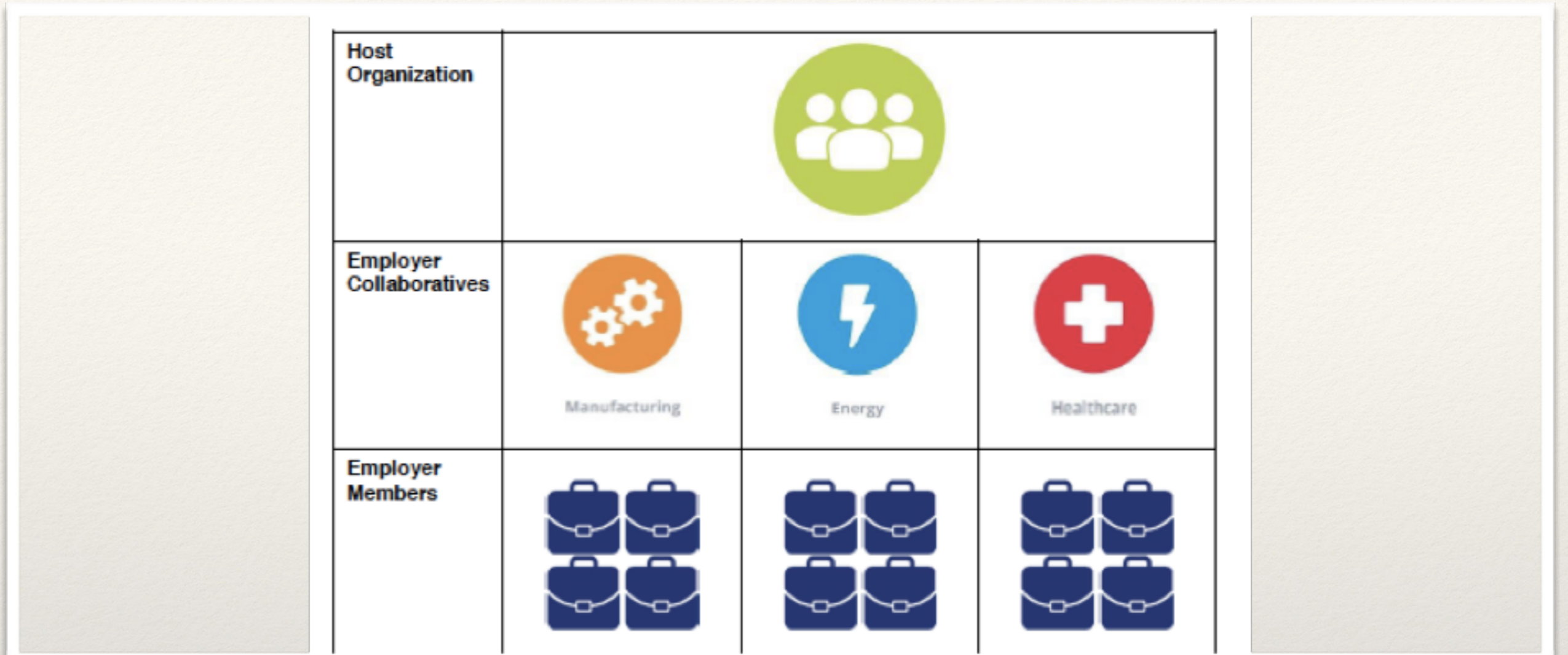
Into this.....



Key Initiatives

- ❖ Targeted Expertise Recruitment & Talent Pipeline Management
- ❖ Fast Tracks to Success (High School Career Awareness & Preparedness)
- ❖ Six Colleges Internship Program (Paid, local internships)
- ❖ So.VT Young Professionals (YP Retention, Recruitment, & Networking)





Engaging dozens of Employers across the County in Manufacturing, Healthcare, Construction, Hospitality, Tech, and Food Systems; 3 Training Programs Created/Implemented

Talent Pipeline Management & Business Cluster Roundtable Initiative

**Needs Assessments,
Collaborative Problem Solving, Networked Training Development**



Serving 200 Students County-Wide (Picture: Twin Valley Students with Governor Phil Scott)

**Fast Tracks to Success (High School
Career Awareness & Preparedness)**

**Site Visits, Employability &
“Soft”-Skills, Career/
Education Planning**



78 Interns placed, 16 Full-Time Hires, Over 160 Employers Engaged since 2014

Six Colleges & BDCC Internship Program

Paid, Local Internships for College Students



Average Event Attendance of 25 Young Professionals, with a network of 300+ individuals

Southern Vermont Young Professionals

**Creative Placemaking,
Networking, and
Professional Development
for Young Professionals**

Take-Aways

1. EVERYTHING is employer-driven
 - Helps us know “where to go”, where opportunities are, etc.
2. Have a good Local, Regional, and Statewide Plan
 - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies
3. Communication & Collaboration with Stakeholders is KEY
 - Schools, Employers, and Funders need to know how players align
 - Vt. Department of Labor, Agency of Commerce & Community Development, Municipalities, and Private Funders all contribute to programming
4. Get Communities On Board
 - Presenting to School Boards, Superintendent Meetings, Guidance Counselor Meet-Ups, etc.
 - Dozens of Selectboard Visits = ~\$70k from Municipalities annually

Contact Information

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