



State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

September 16, 2009

Dear Education Leader,

On February 12, 2010, for the seventh time in the last eight years, the Department of Education is excited to accept proposals under the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (21C) to award significant funding to schools and communities with high need populations (30% free/reduced) that want to establish or expand afterschool programs in Vermont. These programs can occur during out-of-school hours including before school, afterschool, evenings, weekends, vacation and summer time. Funds can support a variety of innovative educational approaches that connect talented teachers and other educators with dynamic programs for young people in grades K-12.

In the last decade, “afterschool” programs have grown in size and scope and are now embedded in our culture as an important part of many young people’s day. In a growing number of communities, programs are sustaining through collaborations that build and enhance relationships and place students in flexible, student-centered learning environments.

The vision of educational *Transformation* is strongly linked to the 21C funding stream. Transformation means focusing on student learning by creating educational environments that respond to the needs of students, provide flexible environments rich with 21st Century tools, and expect students to demonstrate a deep understanding through a variety of means. 21C funds are a perfect match to create transformative learning environments and experiences for our students during non-school hours.

We invite you to consider the many ways programs outside of the school day can enhance our children’s education. To see if 21C funds align with your goals visit:

- DOE Web page: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_federal/21st_CCLC.html
- DOE interactive wiki site: <http://vermontafterschool.pbwiki.com/>
- 21C Applicant Workshops: 8:30 – Noon: key info, Noon – 3:00: lunch, work time and individualized assistance for teams
 - Oct. 9: VT Technical College, Morey Lounge, Randolph
 - Oct. 16: Golden Eagle Resort, Library, Stowe

If you have any questions about this competition, or want to register for a workshop, please contact Emanuel Betz at 828-0557 or emanuel.betz@state.vt.us.

Armando Vilaseca
Commissioner of Education

Emanuel Betz
Assistant Director
Independent and Federal Programs