



BDCC Pipelines and Pathways Program Activity Update

Spring / Summer 2025

Dear P3 partners,

Thanks to your continued support, the Pipelines and Pathways Program (P3) is thriving. This spring marked our most dynamic season yet — packed with milestone events, new partnerships, and deeper classroom integration across Windham County. We literally doubled the amount of events we hosted this past school year and served approximately 1100 students in grades 5 - 12! We're reaching more students, earlier and more effectively, helping them connect the dots between their interests and real-world opportunities.

Here's a look at what we accomplished together this spring and what's ahead for the future.

Practical Learning in Action

Feb 28th: The Windham Regional Career Center (WRCC) Practical Life Skills Fair

P3 partnered with the Windham Regional Career Center to host a day of real-world planning, and hands-on learning for Brattleboro Union High School (BUHS) Sophomores. Modeled after our annual fall Reality Fair “Adulting-101” experience, WRCC instructors, community volunteers, and local businesses created experiential learning booths that align with the Career Center’s 10 programs of study to explore life skills and expose students to career programs they could pursue in their junior and senior years.

Even though BUHS and WRCC exist under the same roof, many of the students said this was their first time exploring the center!

Out of the approximately 150 sophomores who attended, 63 expressed interest in enrolling in programs of study this fall and met with guidance counselors to further explore this educational pathway. Next year, we plan to host this same event and invite sophomores from each of the Windham County schools to attend.



Above, students at the Practical Life Skills Fair exploring Criminal Justice Classroom. Below, students getting into BDCC's ever-popular tie-the-tie challenge.





Students at the Practical Life Skills Fair exploring careers connected to environmentalism (above and below).





Students at the Practical Life Skills Fair experiencing WRCC's Construction Classroom.

Postsecondary Pathways Events

This spring, we nearly doubled our events overall, based on what schools were requesting from us. We hosted nearly back-to-back events during the month of April and into early May. Each event included at least 50 presenters and for the first time in P3 programming, an event took place at each Windham County high school.

A big Windham County-wide event is sometimes the perfect thing, like the fall Reality Fair. The students come from all over, it's a really big production with a ton of activities, and for many a bit of an adventure that's part of the developmental growth we're supporting. However, we've found through trial and error that when students are offered opportunities away from their home campus, many opt out and miss powerful experiences that are crucial to their postsecondary planning. When we bring programming into each individual school, we reach more students, more consistently. We gain more buy-in from faculty, and help build community pride. It's a big ask of our business and college partners who often attend every single event, but they know what it takes to reach our student population and they're invested!

April 2 – 5th Annual Fearless Futures Summit (Bellows Falls Union High School)

A milestone event! This summit engaged students with career and college reps, hands-on employer booths, and insight into apprenticeships, military service, public sector work, and more. This has become an event that students and community members alike look forward to.

April 23 – Colleges, Credentials & Certificates Expo (Leland & Gray)

A visionary twist on a traditional college fair, this event brought colleges from all six New England states and businesses offering paid training, credentialing, and tuition support. Next year, we will extend an invitation to all Windham County high school students. Since the pandemic, in-person college fairs have been limited. We can't wait to do it again.

April 30 – 4th Annual Fearless Futures Summit (Twin Valley Middle/High School)

Student ambassadors from Twin Valley's P3 course helped design and host this summit, showcasing how career education is becoming part of school culture. For the first time, 5th grade students from Twin Valley Elementary School attended, leading to some exciting developments! This fall, BDCC and TVES will pilot a career awareness program for early grades. Students will explore careers via stories, project-based learning, guest speakers, and family engagement — helping build confidence and curiosity before middle school.

May 2 – High-Demand Careers & Apprenticeship Fair (Brattleboro Union High School)

In partnership with the Vermont Department of Labor and VSAC, this fair introduced grades 8–12 to local, high-wage career paths. This was such a terrific opportunity to bring real life opportunities into BUHS, a school where we've just begun to get serious traction...and it's taking off. From the photo booth, to the hands on experiences, students and faculty alike broadened their understanding of what's possible and how to pursue it.



L&G student with college recruiter from Landing School of Boatbuilding & Design.



Above, Twin Valley event with Deerfield Valley Rescue. Below, Bellows Falls event with Green Mountain Power.





Students at the BUHS event with HB Energy.



TV students who just finished P3 capstone projects, with teacher Erin Lovette- Sherman.

Windham Work Ready Credentials and Scholarships

Meanwhile, P3 continued to collaborate with Leland & Gray’s Senior Survival course and Twin Valley’s P3 course, both credit-bearing career awareness and preparedness classes designed for juniors and seniors. Students who successfully complete the courses to our rigorous standards, received a **Windham Work Ready Credential**, an indication to employers and college recruiters that they are prepared for their next steps. Students march with teal honor cords on graduation day to denote their accomplishment.

This was L&G’s 12th Senior Survival cohort and the third year that every senior graduated with a plan in place for a next step into the professional world. Students headed to college and directly into the workforce were equally celebrated. Thirty students graduated with the Windham Work Ready Credential. One outstanding senior, Kian Seiz, received the **Windham Work Ready Scholarship**.

At Twin Valley, 18 students received the **Windham Work Ready Credential** after completing the P3 course. TV has the smallest population of all our Windham County schools, and this is the largest cohort to receive the credential at TV since P3’s inception. Kayden Angell-Brinn received the **Windham Work Ready Scholarship**.



Final Day celebrating L&G Seniors at Senior Breakfast, above.

P3 Partner of the Year Awards

This June, BDCC was proud to honor three outstanding educators with the **2025 P3 Partner of the Year Award**:

Kayla Anthony – Math Teacher, Leland & Gray

Anne Doran – Counselor, Windham Regional Career Center

Rhonda Winegarner – Dual Enrollment Coordinator, Brattleboro Union High School

These partners and colleagues join a distinguished list of past recipients who support everything from the Reality Fair to job shadows and professionalism classes. We could not do this work without the teamwork, and support from within each school.

We've also found over the years, by gathering together peers committed to career education, that we've built community. The learning and inspiration cross-pollinates between schools and what we build together is greater than the sum of its parts through this regional program.



June & July 2025 – Career and College Bootcamps

P3 partnered with Leland & Gray’s after school and summer program, RebelQuest, led by Jamie Dansereau, to bring soft skills training, business, and college visits to Leland & Gray students in grades 7 - 12 during the first week of summer break. Students visited HatchSpace, the Brattleboro Food Coop, CCV, and six other New England colleges. Then, in July, P3’s Career Bootcamp served rising juniors, seniors, and recent grads for the fourth summer in a row at the Brattleboro Boys & Girls Club. This five-day camp, designed as an intensive job exploration and readiness workshop included 21st c. soft skills classes on body language and professional presentation and interview skills. Students explored dual enrollment and early college with a visit to CCV as well as local career options at the Brattleboro Food Co-op, HatchSpace, Brattleboro Town Offices, Police and Fire Departments. Students received one-on-one resume-writing and job application support. They also visited the VT Department of Labor to learn about their free career resources.



Above, RebelQuest students with Christy Betit (left) and Jack Spanierman (back) from BDCC.

Below, Summer Bootcamp students participate in a cooking demonstration as part of the Brattleboro Food Coop “backstage tour”.





Summer Bootcamp students were treated to a look behind the scenes with five Town of Brattleboro departments including fire and EMS.

Looking Ahead

In response to growing interest from students, we will hold our first CDL bootcamp in the final weeks of July. Students will learn about career opportunities in our region through worksite and driver training school tours and make important connections in the industry through speaker panels led by area professionals. They will receive support to prepare for the CDL permit exam, and connect with funding resources that will pay for their continued CDL training and licensing.

Our third Crash Course Carnival, an orientation for Leland & Gray freshmen, is scheduled for August 27. Our second Professional Development Day for BUHS faculty in partnership with VSAC's Aspirations Program and the WRCC will take place this fall. And of course, our flagship event, The 4th Annual Reality Fair will take place on October 1 and will serve all Windham County 8th and 11th graders. We are still looking for volunteers, so please reach out if you would like to be involved in this fun day of experiential learning and community building.

Special Thanks

We thank our steadfast partners and educators including:

Linda Alvarez, Rachel Liubushkin, and Anne Doran (WRCC); Rhonda Winegarner (BUHS); Terry Davison Berger, Sarah Grasso, and Kayla Anthony (L&G); Heather Waryas, Mark Gebo, Andrea Carlson, and Rosie DeCamp (BFUHS); Erin Lovett Sherman (TVMHS), and Rebecca Fillion (TVES).

And thank you — our funders and partners — for believing in this work. We invite you to join us for a classroom visit, volunteer at an event, or serve as a career panelist. You bring the wisdom, and we'll bring the next generation.

Let's keep building something extraordinary — together.

Warmly,

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