

Leadership Academy Testimonials
March, 2018

If you are interested in exploring the superintendency, the Academy will give you an overview of the major components of the job and a firm foundation in the basics competencies required to be successful in Vermont. But more importantly, it will introduce you to a broad base of colleagues whose support and advice you will rely on for many years to come. The Academy will introduce you to new colleagues who are fresh to the field, and to experienced leaders whose knowledge base and advice will prove useful to you as an emerging leader.

~ Emilie B. Knisley, M.Ed., CAGS
Superintendent
Blue Mountain Union School District

The Leadership Academy helped me gain an understanding of how expansive the role of the superintendent is. More importantly it connected me to people in the field with expertise in those areas so I have someone to call when I need help!

~ Michael Clark, Superintendent
Essex-Caledonia SU

If you are interested in exploring the Superintendency – even (especially!) if you cannot imagine how you could make that professional leap – the Academy is a safe place for you explore your temptations. I started in September of 2016, curious but feeling this would be a bridge too far for me, and by March 2017 I was a Superintendent-to-be.

~ Mark Tucker, M.A.
Superintendent
Washington Northeast Supervisory Union

The Academy helped me to better understand the breadth of responsibilities that this job entails. But more than that, I learned that there is a network of 60 incumbent Superintendents in the State of Vermont, every one of whom will drop what s/he is doing to lend you a helping hand.

~ Mark Tucker, M.A.
Superintendent
Washington Northeast Supervisory Union

The Superintendent's Leadership Academy was useful to me in so many ways!
My participation in the Academy:

- provided opportunities to network with people who could provide support.
- connected me with resources that I continue to use today.
- gave me an overview of topics that are pertinent - I find myself returning to the handouts and my notes when managing situations

~ Bev Davis
Superintendent
Orleans Central Supervisory Union

The Superintendents Leadership Academy was useful to me from the practical how to's in the role to the relationships built with colleagues in the state.

I can recommend the Superintendents Leadership Academy because there is no manual about how to be a superintendent. It's a safe place to learn the role.

Through the Academy I learned a tremendous amount about the budgeting process and the legal issues surrounding the superintendency, I gained a greater understanding of the complexity of the role, and built relationships that are still flourishing almost eight years later.

The Academy helped me to better understand the complex nature of the role, as well as who to rely on and delegate roles and responsibilities to.

If you are interested in exploring the superintendency, the Academy will give you a real sense of what the superintendency is from a practical perspective. Each district/supervisory union is a unique delivery model of instruction to students and no one superintendency is the same as another.

~ Dr. Brian G. Ricca, Superintendent
Montpelier Public Schools

I had taken the leadership Academy during my first year as a Superintendent. The topics were highly relevant to what I was doing at certain times of the year. The Leadership Academy is not just about the material you learn it is about the relationships that you form and learning from each other as well. The leadership Academy is not just for educational leaders who want to become a Superintendent it is highly relevant for new Superintendents and/ or for Superintendents who are new to the state of VT. I don't know how I would have gotten through my first year as a Superintendent without the Academy and the others in my cohort. I have become a better Superintendent for being part of the Vermont Superintendents Leadership Academy.

~ Christopher A. Pratt
Superintendent of Schools
Windham Southwest Supervisory Union

The Leadership Academy provided me with essential insight into how Superintendent's can and do make an impact on student learning.

~ Amy Minor
Superintendent
Colchester School District

If you are interested in exploring the superintendency, the Academy will help you truly understand the challenge and opportunity that the position provides. Meeting monthly with a detailed focus and working with current Superintendent's really put the role into perspective.

~ William Anton
Superintendent
Windham Central SU

Having participated in the Superintendent Leadership Academy as a first year superintendent I found the time very valuable in helping me think more broadly about the various aspects of my position. Hearing from veteran superintendents about what has worked well for them provided me with mental models I could use in my day-to-day work. I would recommend the academy to anyone considering the superintendency or in their first year as superintendent.

~ Patrick Reen

Superintendent

Addison Northeast SU

The Superintendent Leadership Academy was invaluable to my growth as a leader in Vermont. The classes were very informative, but I was also able to take away a network of people who have given me support during my first superintendency. My job would be much more difficult without that support.

~ William Bazyk

Superintendent

Battenkill Valley SU