



# ADDISON COUNTY

## Economic Development Corporation

*Great starts here.*

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter!

As always, your feedback is welcome and appreciated.

Enjoy,  
ACEDC

### From the Desk of the Executive Director

As we visit businesses in the region, the most pressing issue remains the labor force. Employers agree that there could be more and better targeted training and education for folks that are here, but the primary driver of the labor force dearth is the lack of housing. Not only does the housing shortage mean families and individuals are not attracted to the area, but many employers have lost potential new employees who have accepted positions but could not find housing.

The [Vermont Statewide Housing Needs Assessment](#) recently conducted by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency found that Vermont will likely need 24,000 – 36,000 additional year-round homes between 2025 and 2029. According to the study, Addison County has 17,455 year-round and seasonal homes, 66% of which (11,520) are year-round owner-occupied homes. In Addison County, the number of households has been growing at an average rate of 0.6% annually. By 2029, a projected 16,131 – 16,987 households will live here. To accommodate demand to live here and meet other housing needs such as normalizing the vacancy rate, Addison County is likely to need a projected 1,171-1,799 additional homes between 2025 and 2029.

There are some encouraging developments. According to [Rocket Homes](#), the number of homes for sale in Addison County in August 2024 rose 73.5% over July 2024, from 34 to 59. Several housing projects have been completed or are in the works: 20 units of affordable housing at the [Firehouse Apartments](#) in downtown Bristol are completed and were filled before construction completed; 24 units of mixed-income housing at the Sienna Apartments on Armory Lane in Vergennes, developed by Peter Kahn, are built and leasing; and the 218 unit mixed-income [Stonecrop Meadows](#) project by Summit Properties hopes to break ground in November; Dan Hassan's [Grand Senior Living](#) project, which will accommodate 82 seniors, is well under way. Additionally, Mr. Kahn has plans for 130-units of mixed income housing behind the Vergennes Police Station.

We are truly appreciative for the resources made available by the Vermont Legislature and the Scott Administration that have, in part, made these projects possible. We also appreciate the efforts made by so many to pass [Act 181 \(H. 687\)](#), which included several provisions that should help increase the development of housing units, including some interim exemptions for development occurring in certain areas. But to approach the development of the number of units required to encourage new residents to the region and ensure employers can fill positions, much more needs to be done. We look forward to working with housing developers, the administration, and the members of next General Assembly to continue to address the housing crisis.

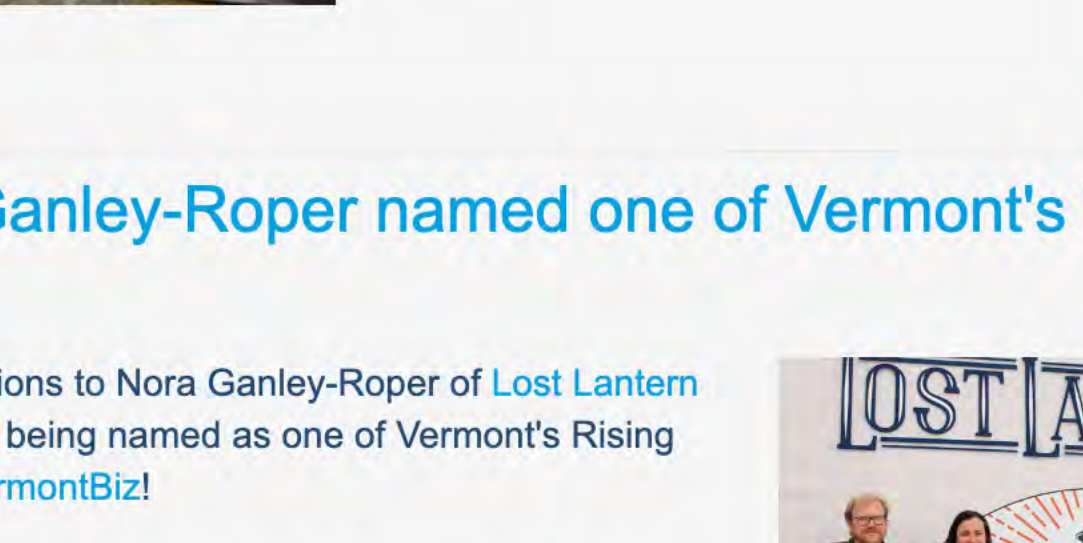
### ACEDC News

#### ACEDC is Hiring!

The Office Operations Manager supports the organization's mission and ensures effective and smooth operations by providing office management functions, coordinating contracted services, and providing support to staff. This position handles a range of responsibilities associated with the organization's operations and office management. The position reports directly to the Executive Director and works collaboratively with all organization staff. The ideal candidate can handle a wide range of assignments, ensure sensitive material is kept confidential, and is willing to be flexible in their responsibilities.

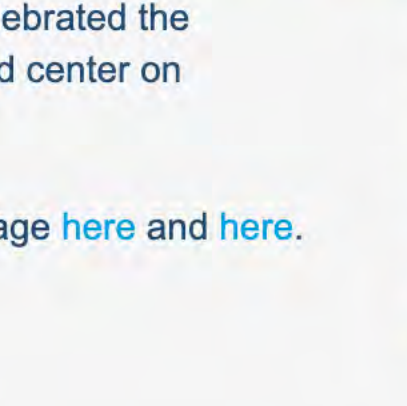
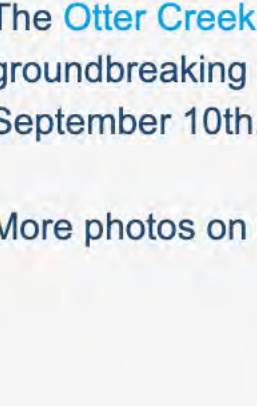
[Read More](#)

#### ACEDC Mixer



ACEDC held their annual member mixer at Shacksbury Cider on September 11th. Pictured: Sandy Croft and Lisa Rollins from VEDA, with Darcy Tarte ACEDC Board Member (left) and Adam Polonski and Nora Ganley-Roper, Lost Lantern Spirits, with Fred Kenney, ACEDC Executive Director (right).

### Welcome to our Newest Members



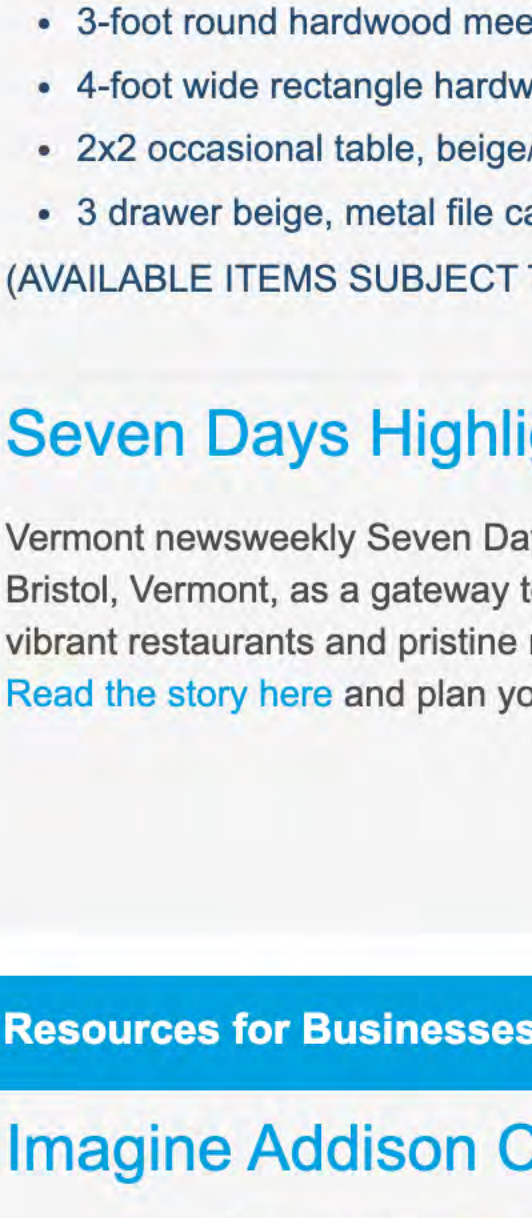
#### Is your ACEDC member profile up to date?

We want our member directory to be a useful resource for everyone; please take a few minutes to make sure your business profile is up to date.

We have a [video tutorial](#) and [written instructions](#) to guide you through the process. If you have any questions or issues, please reach out by emailing us at [info@addisoncountyedc.org](mailto:info@addisoncountyedc.org) or calling 802-388-7953.

### ACEDC Members and Partners in the News

#### Agricola Farm Offers Gatherings, Event Hosting, Cured Meat Platters



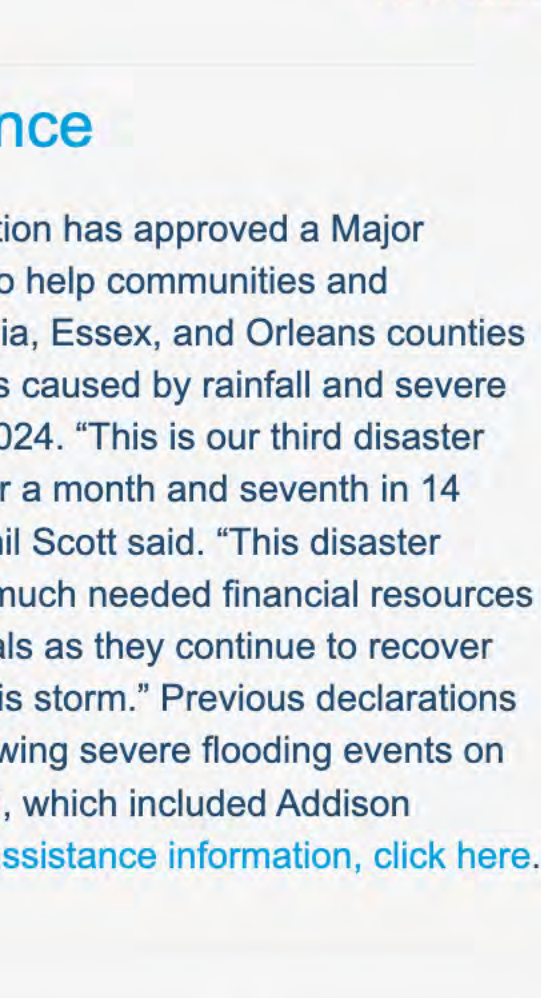
ACEDC member Agricola Farm & Monti Verdi Salumi has announced they are offering the opportunity to host your company event at their farm in Pantton, VT. Refreshments are available, from a grazing cocktail party to a sit-down 3-course meal. Their space can host up to 32 people. For larger parties, they can deliver their Artisanal cured meat platters to your venue. This is a product unique to the Champlain Valley, made from animals born and raised on the farm.

[Read More](#)

#### Nora Ganley-Roper named one of Vermont's Rising Stars

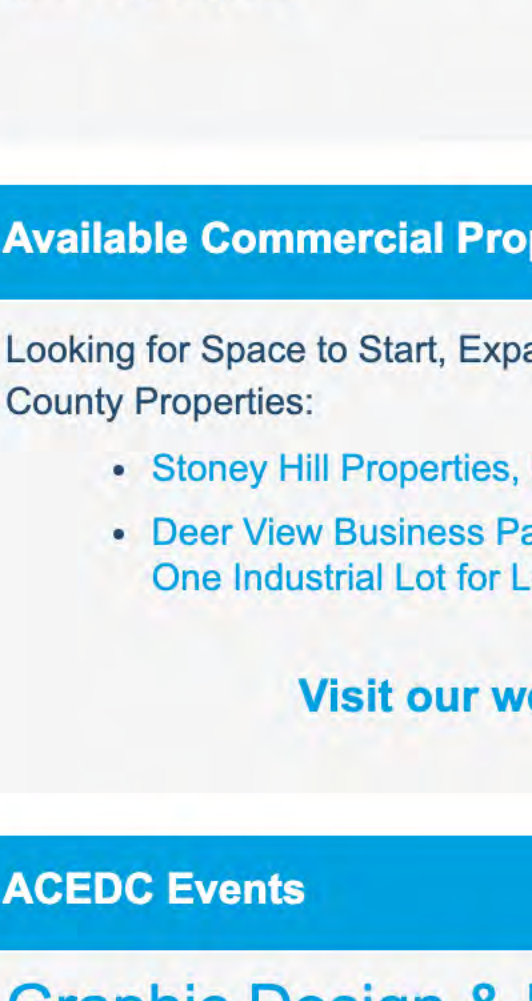
Congratulations to Nora Ganley-Roper of [Lost Lantern Whiskey](#) on being named as one of Vermont's Rising Stars by [VermontBiz!](#)

Award recipients were selected by a panel of judges for their commitment to business growth, professional excellence, and involvement in their communities.



[Read More](#)

#### Addison Housing Works Celebrates 35 Years

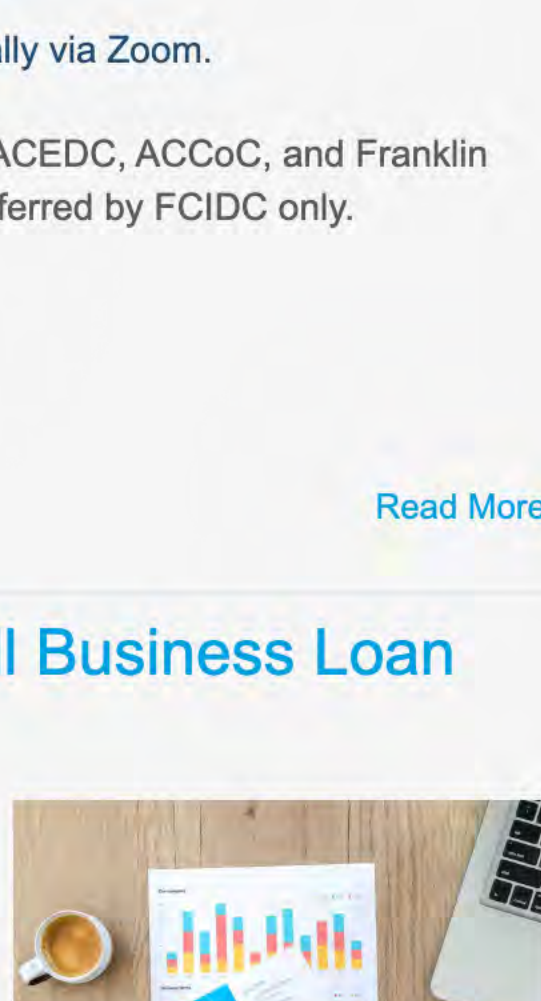


[Addison Housing Works](#) celebrated its 35th anniversary on September 13th in Bristol with music in the park.

#### Groundbreaking at Otter Creek Child Center

The [Otter Creek Child Center](#) celebrated the groundbreaking of their expanded center on September 10th.

More photos on our Instagram page [here](#) and [here](#).



#### 60/40 Celebration at Northlands Job Corps



[Northlands Job Corps Center](#) celebrated 60 years of Job Corps and 40 years of Northlands Job Corps Center at the Vergennes Opera House on August 22nd.

### Community News

#### Furniture Available for Addison County Small Businesses and Non-profits

ACEDC member National Bank of Middlebury is once again generously offering office furniture to the Addison County business and non-profit community. As renovations proceed, the furniture will be available for pick-up at the main NBM branch (30 Main Street, Middlebury) on a first come, first served basis on two occasions. You must take it away yourself during the times identified. The first date is **October 7, 2024, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**. No early or late arrivals. The second availability will be in January 2025. Watch for an announcement.

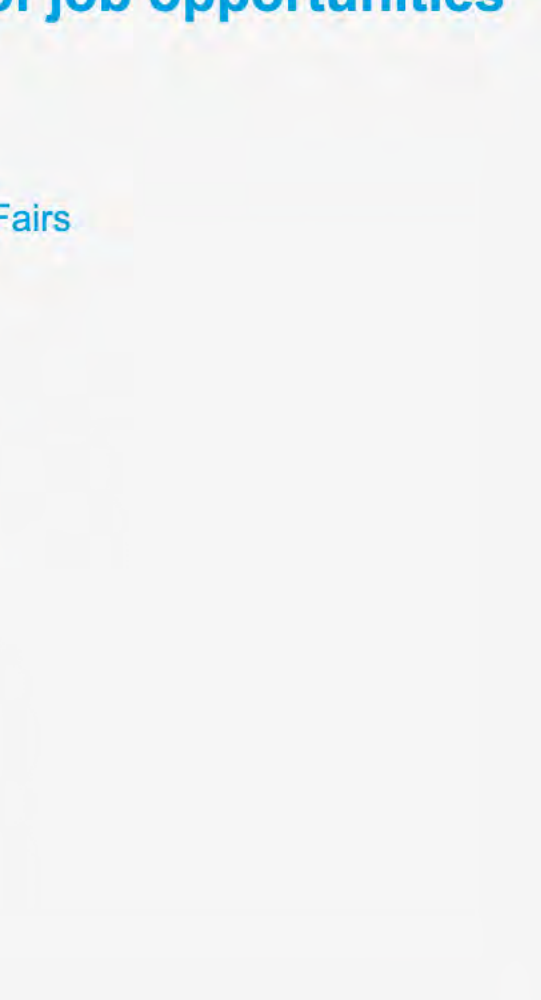
**Available on October 7, between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm are:**

- L-Shaped hardwood desks, brown, one with a high/low cabinet sideboard
- Laminate L-Shape desk, off-white
- L-shape laminate desks, off-white, with walls
- Adjustable desk chairs, brown
- Hardwood 4 drawer lateral file cabinet, brown
- Hardwood 4 drawer file cabinet, brown
- Hardwood 3 shelf unit, brown
- Chairs – hardwood backs and arms, brown, upholstered seats
- Chairs- hardwood arms; upholstered back and seats
- 3-foot round hardwood meeting tables, brown
- 4-foot wide rectangle hardwood side tables, brown
- 2x2 occasional table, beige/green
- 3 drawer beige, metal file cabinets

(AVAILABLE ITEMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE)

#### Seven Days Highlights Bristol's Charms

Vermont newsweekly Seven Days recently featured Bristol, Vermont, as a gateway to historic charm, vibrant restaurants and pristine natural attractions. [Read the story here](#) and plan your visit!



### Resources for Businesses & Municipalities

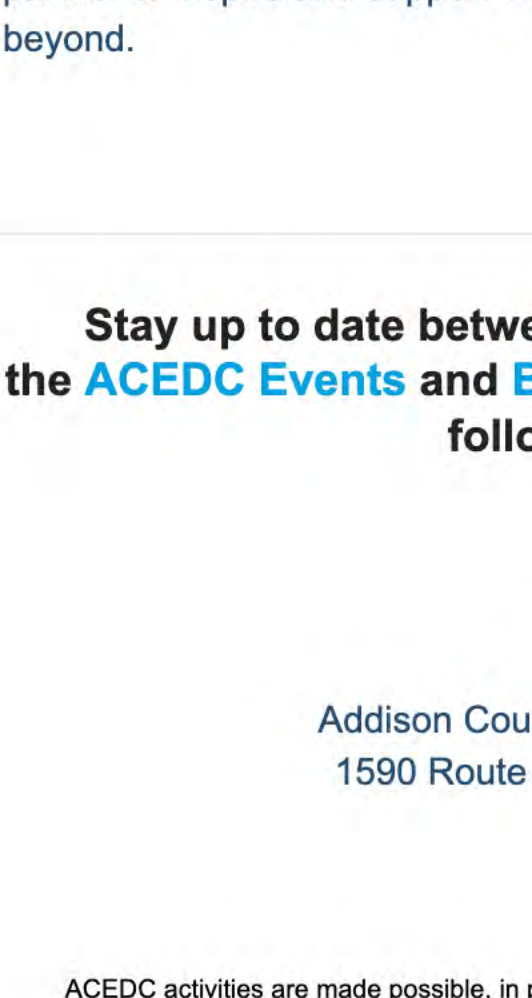
#### Imagine Addison County



ACEDC and Addison County Chamber of Commerce are administering a "Grant for Relocation Outreach Work (GROW)," a program of the Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development, Department of Tourism and Marketing. If you have staff or otherwise know folks who are new residents to Addison County, please direct them to [Grow Here - Addison County Chamber of Commerce, VT](#). The website provides a network, events and activities designed to welcome them to the community. And if you're recruiting from out-of-state to fill positions, be sure to include [Imagine Addison County Vermont - Addison County Chamber of Commerce, VT](#) in your information to prospects for access to relocation information and support.

[Read More](#)

#### Disaster Declarations and Assistance



The Biden Administration has approved a Major Disaster Declaration to help communities and individuals in Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties recover from damages caused by rainfall and severe flooding July 29-31, 2024. "This is our third disaster declaration in just over a month and seventh in 14 months," Governor Phil Scott said. "This disaster declaration will bring much needed financial resources to towns and individuals as they continue to recover from the impacts of this storm." Previous declarations were announced following severe flooding events on June 23 and July 9-11, which included Addison County. [For disaster assistance information, click here.](#)

#### Vermont Saves Program

The Vermont Saves program establishes a retirement savings plan for Vermonters who are not currently offered a retirement plan through their employer. It's designed to make saving for retirement easy and automatic, at no cost to employers and no ongoing cost to taxpayers.



[Read More](#)

### Available Commercial Properties in Addison County

Looking for Space to Start, Expand, or Relocate Your Business? Consider these Addison County Properties:

- [Stoney Hill Properties, Bristol: Two Lots for Sale or Build-to-Suit](#)
- [Deer View Business Park, New Haven: Flex-space, Five Commercial Lots and One Industrial Lot for Lease](#)

[Visit our website for more property listings](#)

### ACEDC Events

#### Graphic Design & Full Motion Video: Advanced Canva 101



**Tuesday, November 12th**  
**9:30-10:30am**  
Webinar offered virtually via Zoom.

Open to members of ACEDC, ACCoC, and Franklin County businesses referred by FCIDC only. Registration is free.

[Read More](#)

#### Financial Literacy 201 – The Small Business Loan Process

**Tuesday, December 10th**  
**9:30-10:30am**  
Webinar offered virtually via Zoom.

Open to members of ACEDC, ACCoC, and Franklin County businesses referred by FCIDC only. Registration is free.



[Read More](#)

#### Visit the ACEDC Events Calendar for more events

### Community Events

#### Vermont Biz2Biz Expo



Attend the largest B2B Trade Show in Northern New England on **October 9th from 8:30am to 4:30pm** at the DoubleTree by Hilton in South Burlington.

Rel imagine the power of business in Vermont. The VermontBiz2Biz Expo will offer a unique opportunity for businesses to meet, listen, learn and celebrate throughout the one day business event of the year.

[Read More](#)

#### Vermont Department of Taxes 2024 Fall Tax Symposium

**October 22, 2024**  
The Fall Tax Symposium, hosted by the Vermont Department of Taxes, is free and offered both in-person and online.

CPE Credits are available for in-person attendees only.

Registration is required. Each attendee must register individually.

A hot buffet lunch, including beverage and dessert, will be available for purchase at the Statehouse Cafe for \$14.00 per person.



[Read More](#)

#### Visit our Community Events Calendar for more events

### Employment, Training and Education Opportunities

#### Intro to Electric Soldering Class at PAHCC



Learn the fundamentals of electrical soldering to help you secure a job in the high-tech manufacturing industry!

**Class Details**

- Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays, Nov 5, 7, 12, & 14
- Duration: 10 hours (four 2.5-hour classes)
- Location: PAHCC Main Campus, 51 Charles Ave
- Cost: \$250 (\$100 for ACEDC/Chamber members)
- Full Tuition Waiver: Available for any student who attends a job interview with Collins Aerospace

**Why take this class?**

- In-Demand Skill: Gain valuable experience in high-tech manufacturing jobs available in the area
- Small Class Size: Max of 6 students, with up to 7 hours in our hands on workmanship lab
- Job Opportunity: Guaranteed interview for a Level 1 Assembler position at Collins Aerospace

**What you'll learn**

- Through-hole soldering (THT)
- Surface Mount Soldering (SMT)
- Solder Safety Processes

**How to apply**  
Contact Melissa at 802-382-1012 or [msullivan@pahcc.org](mailto:msullivan@pahcc.org)

[Read More](#)

#### AllEarth Renewables: Operations & Maintenance Field Technician

All Earth Renewables is seeking a highly skilled, detail-oriented person whose primary responsibilities include performing troubleshooting, testing, service, repair and preventive maintenance on dual axis solar trackers.



[Read More](#)

#### Visit our website for a current list of job opportunities

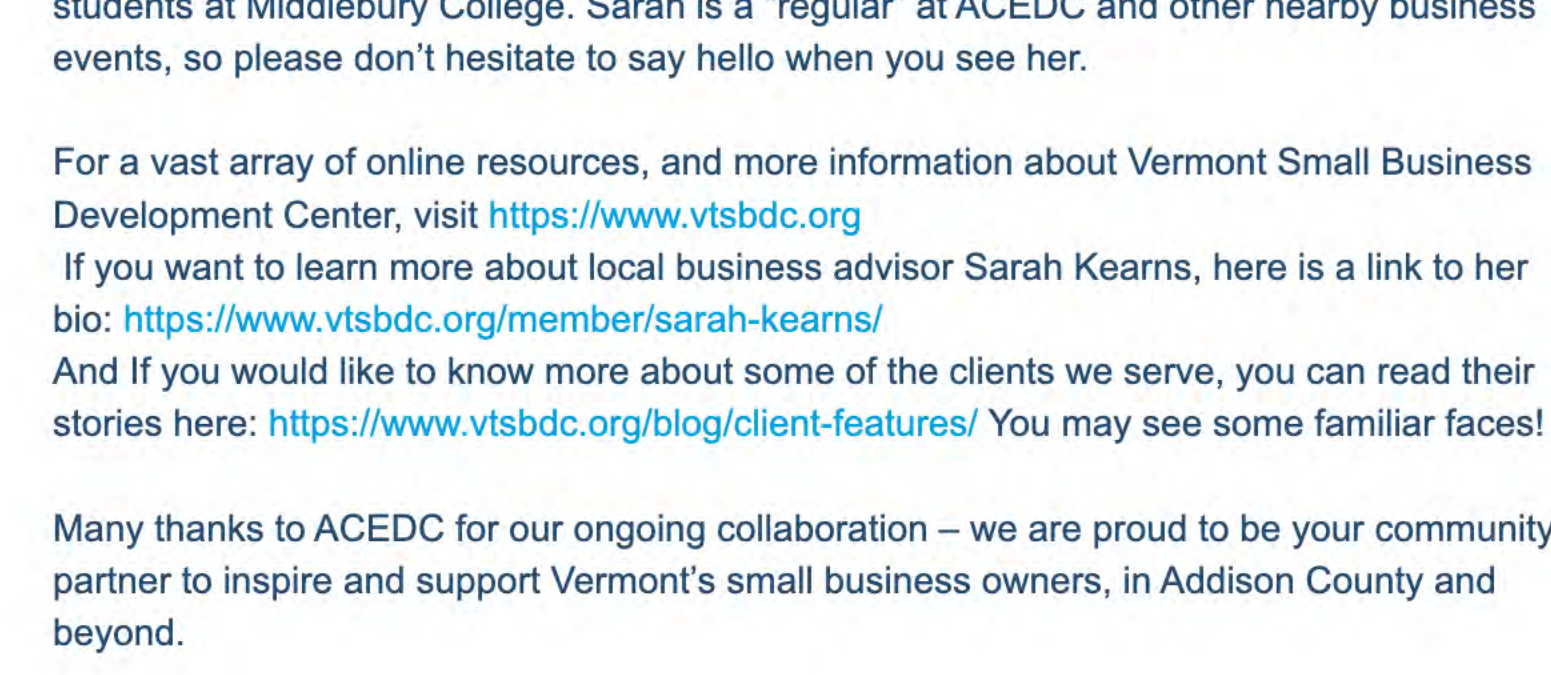
#### Job Fairs

[Vermont Department of Labor #Hiring2DayVT Virtual Job Fairs](#)

#### Weekly VT DoL Virtual Workshops

- [Resume Writing Workshop](#) - Mondays at 9am
- [Regional Employment Connections](#) - Mondays at 1pm
- [Interviewing Skills](#) - Tuesdays at 9am
- [Re-Employment Strategies](#) - Wednesdays at 9am
- [Resume Writing Workshop](#) - Wednesdays at 1pm
- [Interviewing Skills](#) - Fridays at 1pm

### Highlighted Partner: Vermont Small Business Development Center (VtSBDC)



We are honored to be this issue's ACEDC highlighted partner. VtSBDC is here to support and inspire Vermont's small business owners at every stage of their business: **Start. Grow. Thrive. Transition.**

Along with our team of advisors throughout our state, our Addison County area business advisor Sarah Kearns provides no-fee, one-to-one, confidential advising so that business owners are prepared to face challenges, evaluate opportunities, and prepare for the future.

Whether we are working with experienced business owners, first-time entrepreneurs, or students with the spark of an idea, we can assist with:

- Start-up Education & Planning
- Financing Guidance
- Sales & Marketing Strategies
- Growth Strategies
- Financial Management
- Risk Management
- Operations Recommendations
- Innovation & Technology Commercialization
- Entrepreneur Education for Collegiate-age Students, High School Students & Faculty

Plus, in her dual role as business advisor and statewide advisor for strategic projects, Sarah works with collegiate-age and young entrepreneurs, often holding office hours for students at Middlebury College. Sarah is a "regular" at ACEDC and other nearby business events, so please don't hesitate to say hello when you see her.

For a vast array of online resources, and more information about Vermont Small Business Development Center, visit <https://www.vtsbdc.org>

If you want to learn more about local business advisor Sarah Kearns, here is a link to her bio: <https://www.vtsbdc.org/member/sarah-kearns/>

And if you would like to know more about some of the clients we serve, you can read their stories here: <https://www.vtsbdc.org/blog/client-features/> You may see some familiar faces!

Many thanks to ACEDC for our ongoing collaboration – we are proud to be your community partner to inspire and support Vermont's small business owners, in Addison County and beyond.

#### Stay up to date between newsletters by visiting our News Feed, the ACEDC Events and Business Community Calendar webpages, and following us on social media!



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ACEDC activities are made possible, in part, by a grant from the State of Vermont through the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Loan programs are made possible by USDA/Rural Development. ACEDC is an equal opportunity service provider and lender, with all services and funds available on a non-discriminatory basis.