

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Experience the Workplace at a One-of-a-Kind Community Career & Job Fair

Get up close with the equipment and technology behind Vermont careers, meet employers, explore training opportunities and apply for jobs on-site September 29

ESSEX JUNCTION, Vt. — Forget rows of tables and stacks of brochures. On September 29, Workforce In Motion is inviting the community to experience a career fair differently.

Workforce In Motion's Chittenden County Summit will bring career exploration to life at the Champlain Valley Exposition. After more than 1,100 middle and high school students spend the morning exploring careers, the entire Summit floor will open to the public from 12:00–3:30 p.m. for a free Community Career & Job Fair, offered in partnership with the Vermont Department of Labor.

"Workforce In Motion was built on a simple belief: people make stronger career decisions when they can experience the work, meet the people doing it and clearly see the path forward," said Russ Marsan, founder of Workforce In Motion. "With Casella standing behind this effort as our statewide sponsor, we are able to create those meaningful connections on a much larger scale. Whether you're a student, a parent, someone considering a career change or ready to apply for a job today, this is an opportunity to discover what's possible right here in Vermont—and take a real next step."

The public will step into the same immersive career-exploration environment created for students, surrounded by the equipment, technology, demonstrations and people behind careers across Vermont.

Visitors can get hands-on across the Summit floor: test their skills on a CAT heavy-equipment simulator, take on a cybersecurity lockpicking challenge, watch a live robotics demonstration, bend sheet metal, try pipe-fusion and plumbing activities, experience VR welding, explore aviation maintenance and interact with utility equipment.

There will also be plenty of large equipment to explore, including an airport deicing truck, a 38-foot rail log truck and a real section of railroad track, a forestry truck and chipper, a snowplow, a bucket truck, a mini F-16 and specialized military and emergency-response vehicles. The event will also feature a Vermont State Police K-9 demonstration.

The experience extends well beyond equipment. Visitors can explore torn-down smart devices, digital forensics and artificial intelligence; see biotechnology and chemistry in action; meet Vermont entrepreneurs; and get a behind-the-scenes look at a live WCAX broadcast, green screen and weather vehicle.

Attendees will also be able to connect directly with employers, colleges, technical education programs and workforce organizations to learn about jobs, training, certifications, continuing education and the pathways that can help them take their next step.

For adults thinking about what comes next, that could mean discovering a career they had not considered, meeting the people doing the work, learning what training or credentials they need to get started, and even applying for a job—all in one afternoon.

“Events like this, where you see the actual work behind the jobs, not just a table and a flyer, are the kind of experience that can turn curiosity into a career path,” said Department of Labor Commissioner Kendal Smith. “Our team will be on-site at the Easy Apply station to help participants take that next step immediately, whether that’s polishing a resume or submitting an application on the spot.”

Casella Waste Systems’ statewide sponsorship helps Workforce In Motion bring hands-on career exploration directly to students and communities across Vermont.

“We believe building a strong workforce begins by helping people discover meaningful career opportunities and then investing in their success every step of the way,” said Jeff Weld, vice president of communications at Casella Waste Systems. “That starts by introducing students to careers through programs like Workforce In Motion and continues long after someone joins our team through investments like our CDL school, maintenance technician training, and frontline leadership development programs.”

The Lake Champlain Chamber, host partner for the Chittenden County Summit, is helping connect the region’s employers with both their future workforce and people looking for opportunities today.

“The Summit gives employers an opportunity to engage directly with their future workforce, build talent pipelines for tomorrow, and connect with job seekers today,” said Catherine Z. Davis, president and CEO of the Lake Champlain Chamber.

Those who cannot make it to the Expo can still get a look inside the Summit. WCAX will broadcast live from the Summit floor from 10:00–11:00 a.m., showcasing participating employers, equipment, demonstrations and career experiences before the Community Career & Job Fair opens at noon. Viewers can tune in on WYCI, WCAX.com or WCAX Facebook Live.

Event Details:

What: Workforce In Motion Community Career & Job Fair

When: Tuesday, September 29, 12:00–3:30 p.m.

Where: Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vermont

Admission: Free and open to the public

On-site support: Vermont Department of Labor Easy Apply station, offering resume and

job-application assistance

More information: WorkforceInMotion.org

Activities and equipment are subject to change.

About Workforce In Motion

Workforce In Motion brings students, employers, educators, workforce partners and communities together to create hands-on connections to careers and opportunities across Vermont. Through immersive career exploration, direct employer engagement and community partnerships, Workforce In Motion helps Vermonters see what careers are possible, understand how to get there and connect with the people and resources that can help them take the next step.

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