



ADVOCACY | WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Meeting the moment but also looking beyond it—that’s how I would describe the Chamber’s work over the past year. Time and again, we’ve risen to a challenge for our region and leapt at an opportunity. We thoughtfully balance what our region needs right now with what it needs for success in the future. A couple of recent examples: the Downtown Business Alliance is meeting the moment for Burlington, while our recently announced Talent Attraction Initiative is setting this region up for needed growth. We’re helping solve our business community’s present challenges AND investing in our vision of the future: *that our region continues to be Vermont’s leading economic center, with a vibrant, innovative business environment that provides robust economic opportunity and a sustainable, high quality of life.*

Together, we make Vermont work,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Davis'.

Cathy Davis
President & CEO

250+

pieces of
legislation monitored



“The Lake Champlain Chamber has always been an important partner working to advance Burlington businesses, and we are pleased to see their work enhanced with a dedicated division focused on advocacy.”

Leslee MacKenzie

Coldwell Banker Hickok &
Boardman

LCC Advocacy continues to serve as the crucial bridge between our members and policymakers at the local, regional, and state levels.

ENHANCED FOCUS ON BURLINGTON

LCC announced the launch of the Downtown Business Alliance (DBA), a new advocacy and engagement initiative serving as a vital bridge between the local business community and city leadership.

CONTINUED WORK AT THE STATE LEVEL

Throughout the 2026 legislative session, our advocacy team monitored over 250 pieces of legislation and testified more than a dozen times to elevate local business perspectives. By connecting over 200 LCC members directly with 30+ policymakers, we ensured our business community had a strong voice at the State House.

LEADERSHIP AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Throughout the year, our Regional Affairs Committee highlighted how town lines often create barriers to efficient public service delivery. To address this, we hosted a Legislative Breakfast panel exploring regional and county governance solutions, while successfully advocating at the State House to renew a study committee focused on regional cooperation.

30+

elected officials connected directly
with LCC members at advocacy events



“Leadership Champlain molds local leaders into more educated and engaged community members. By inviting people from all backgrounds and industries around Vermont to share in this experience, they go back to their employers with a greater appreciation for what is happening around our state, and more importantly, better understanding about how to get involved!”

Mike Coster
GlobalFoundries



“BYP has been so important for my professional and personal development. Between a major career change and relocating to Vermont, finding BYP really helped me get my feet on the ground and want to increase my involvement here in the state.

Emily Hayes
The Harborvale

LEADERSHIP CHAMPLAIN

The Leadership Champlain Class of 2026 brought together 30 graduates representing 27 organizations across the region. 85% of participants surveyed said they would highly recommend the program to a friend or colleague. Applications open in February!

Through six cohort-led service projects, Leadership Champlain participants put their leadership into action to address critical challenges facing our community.

BURLINGTON YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Over the past year, BYP collaborated with 17+ sponsors and community partners to host 12 Meet Ups and BYP Learns events, helping over 425 young professionals set down roots in our region.

The program also hosted its first State House Day, bringing members of the BYP Advisory Board to the Vermont State House during the legislative session to meet with lawmakers.

RELOCATION

As Chittenden County's grantee for the State of Vermont's GROW grant, LCC completed its first two-year cycle at the end of 2025, receiving 661 leads. This marked the highest lead volume statewide and helped 11 households (21 residents) relocate to the area. These efforts were supported by the "Move to Burlington" microsite, "Hello" video series, and relocation events.

With funding renewed through 2027, the Chamber is continuing to support potential new residents and building a regional talent attraction strategy to deepen employer ties and connect new Vermonters to open roles across the region.

HELLO BURLINGTON

Hello Burlington continues to drive economic vitality across our region by bringing meeting visitors to local businesses and positioning Greater Burlington as a premier destination. In the last year, definite sales revenue from converted leads reached \$1,827,072 in direct support of our hospitality and retail sectors.

The division also partnered with the University of Vermont and Leahy BTV airport to contract with public relations firm Karsh Hagan Madden to secure positive media coverage for the region. The collaboration helped generate over 8.5 billion media impressions, 12 press trips to Burlington, and coverage in AFAR, Travel + Leisure, Fodor's, Matador Network and inclusion in CNN.com's 10 towns to visit in 2026.

We also promoted the region through our new "Don't Dream It, B It" campaign. In partnership with Datafy, target drive-market placements delivered a remarkable \$44.98 to \$1 return on ad spend.

LAUNCHVT

LaunchVT's 2026 cohort reflected a rich blend of innovation, with startups spanning AI platforms, biotech, agtech, apparel, publishing, and home electronics.

In total, the program allocated over \$125,000 in prizes to support these high-growth startups—42% of which were led by women and BIPOC founders.

The program culminated in a standing-room-only Demo Night, drawing over 450 registered attendees.

592k+

website users on
helloburlingtonvt.com



\$125k+

in prizes allocated to
the 2026 cohort

Uniting employers, entrepreneurs, and changemakers to build a stronger regional economy



"The Lake Champlain Chamber is a great resource for all businesses in the region—whether you are a large manufacturer or a small enterprise."

Patty Shirk
Oxxius, Inc.



"I support the Chamber because it advocates, cultivates, and nurtures entrepreneurs and leaders, helping to sustain a thriving and diversified economy within our community."

Julia Birnn Fields
Birnn Chocolates of
Vermont

70+

new members
welcomed this year

20+

total
member benefits

500+

members featured in LCC's
monthly Member Connection newsletter

200+

organizations have
been LCC members for 25+ years

We help our members build meaningful relationships across our business community, provide the perks you need to attract and retain top talent, and stand by you as a tireless advocate in public policy.

Whatever your goals, our suite of member-exclusive benefits offers a path to greater success in our region and beyond. [Check out member benefits here.](#)

We are always glad to answer your questions and get your feedback. [Contact us.](#)

Meeting new people, making connections, and forging partnerships - 35+ events meant there was something for everyone

2.6k+
event attendees
gathered

35+
events hosted

115TH ANNUAL GALA

We hosted our 115th Annual Gala, bringing together the best of our business community and celebrating our Business of the Year: VHV; Non-Profit of the Year: Special Olympics Vermont; Leader of the Year: Cairn Cross, and Emerging Leader of the Year: Michele Karode.



David Seaver Photography

DESTINATION BTV

Our Travel & Tourism Summit “Destination BTV” gathered professionals from across the region to build new partnerships, gain new insights, and drive our community forward.

YEAR OF EVENTS

2025 | OCTOBER - DECEMBER

Business After Hours
Legislative Speed Networking
BYP Learns
Legislative Speed Networking
Business Before Hours
Legislative Speed Networking
Destination BTV
BYP Meet Up
Jingle & Mingle

2026 | JANUARY - SEPTEMBER

BYP Meet Up
Business After Hours
BYP Meet Up
Hospitality Social
Legislative Breakfast
Hospitality Social
LaunchVT Cohort Kickoff
115th Annual Gala
Legislative Breakfast
BYP Learns
Leadership Champlain Alumni Gathering
Hello Burlington High Season Kickoff
BYP Meet Up
Business After Hours
Leadership Champlain Graduation
LaunchVT Demo Night
LCC Explores
BYP Meet Up
Hospitality Social
Building Vermont's Future Workforce
Member Night
BYP Learns & Meet Up
Member Night
BYP Meet Up
Business After Hours
Workforce in Motion Summit

Plus some great webinars!

The Lake Champlain Chamber is supported in our work by many volunteers who believe in what we do and the promise of our region.

LCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Chair: Alex Halpern | Freeman French Freeman, Inc.
- Vice Chair: Kurt Gruendling | Waitsfield & Champlain Valley Telecom
- President: Cathy Davis | Lake Champlain Chamber
- Immediate Past Chair: Heather Ross | Sheehey, Furlong & Behm
- Past Chair: Dave Lane | Snow Farm Winery & Distillery
- Counsel: Chris Leff | Paul, Frank & Collins
- Mary Broadworth | University of Vermont Health Network
- Mimi Bittenheim | Mad River Distillers
- Ryan Chaffin | Farrell Distributing
- Tatiana Davydov | Mascoma Bank
- Erin Evarts | Mercy Connections
- Patrick Gallivan | Vermont State Dental Society
- Ara Hagan | Hagan Associates
- Liz Hunt | Green Mountain Surgery Center
- Paul Jarvis | Bilodeau, Wells and Company
- Matt McMahon | MMR
- Tinotenda (Tino) Charles Rutanhira | Vermont Professionals of Color Network
- David Seaver | Northfield Savings Bank
- Patricia Shirk | Oxxius
- Ben Traverse | University of Vermont Medical Center
- Hans Van Wees | Hotel Vermont
- Andrew Way | Leonardo's Pizza
- Karen Wisheart | Windjammer Hospitality Group

LCC wishes to thank the following individuals for completing their terms on our Board of Directors: Tinotenda Charles Rutanhira, Vermont Professionals of Color Network; David Lane, Snow Farm Winery & Distillery; and Ryan Chaffin, Farrell Distributing.

In Memoriam: The Chamber wishes to remember the meaningful contributions of two former members of our Board of Directors who passed away this year: Ron Boucher and Stephanie Mapes.

HELLO BURLINGTON BOARD OF ADVISORS

- AC Hotel
- Best Western Windjammer
- Blind Tiger Burlington
- Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman
- Comfort Inn & Suites South Burlington
- Courtyard Burlington Harbor
- Delta by Marriott
- DoubleTree by Hilton Burlington
- Essex Resort & Spa
- Hampton Inn Colchester
- Hilton Garden Inn
- Holiday Inn Express Downtown
- Holiday Inn Express South Burlington
- Hotel Champlain
- Hotel Vermont
- Patrick Leahy Burlington International Airport
- Spirit of Ethan Allen
- University of Vermont

LEADERSHIP CHAMPLAIN ADVISORY BOARD

- Chair: Jess Lukas | YMCA
- Vice Chair: Michele Karode | University of Vermont
- Past Chair: Kim Anderson | Wake Robin
- Matt Boulanger | Town of Williston
- Michelle Buswell | M&T Bank/Wilmington Trust
- Christian Chorba | DRM
- Kevin Cofelice | GlobalFoundries
- Erin Evarts | Mercy Connections
- Charlotte Hackett | State of Vermont
- Nicole Haley | United Way of Northwest Vermont
- Jennifer Kaulius | UVM Health Network
- Sharon Lifschutz | Howard Center
- Sandra Lucia | VGS
- Matt McMahon | MMR
- Sarah Rock | University of Vermont
- Matthew Sjoblom | EastRise Credit Union
- Mary-Katherine Stone | UVM Medical Center
- Tim Vartanian | Northeast Delta Dental

BURLINGTON YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD

- Chair: Kelsey VonDerLinn | ECHO, Leahy Center of Lake Champlain
- Advocacy Chair: Ryan Nick, NAI/J.L. Davis Realty
- Troi Bachmann | Northwest Vermont REALTOR® Association
- Hanna Blankenship | University of Vermont
- Mary Capparuccini | Hadley Financial Group & New York Life
- Chelsea Ceardai | EastRise Credit Union
- Austin Davis | Lake Champlain Chamber
- Emily Hayes | The Harborvale
- Sophie Owen Jankowski | Redstone
- Brittany Nevins | Vermont Department of Economic Development
- Phil Sheridan | NorthCountry Federal Credit Union
- Gabriella Stevens | Chittenden Solid Waste District
- Ibbby Wilson | NBT Bank



LCC REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- Troi Bachmann | Northwest Vermont REALTOR® Association
- Charlie Baker | Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
- Amy Carmola | United Way of Northwest Vermont
- Joe Carton
- John Caulo | Real Estate Project Management Professional
- Clayton Clark | Green Mountain Transit
- Matt Cota | Meadow Hill/South Burlington Business Association
- Alex Demoly | GBIC
- Liz Gamache | Lund
- Dylan Giambatista | VGS
- Susan Grasso | Local Motion
- Mike Keller | South Burlington Business Association
- Jeff Lawson | Hello Burlington
- Meg McGovern | Donahue & Associates
- Leslee McKenzie | Hickok & Boardman
- Matt McMahon | MMR
- Ryan Nick | J.L. Davis Realty
- Kathi O'Reilly | Town of Colchester
- Mark Redmond | Spectrum Youth & Family Services
- Michael Simmoneau | Geri Reilly Real Estate
- Chris Smith
- Evan Taylor | Green Mountain Credit Union

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Reach out to learn about volunteering to serve on one of our boards or committees or check out our Member Engagement Guide.

STAFF

- Catherine Z. Davis, President & CEO
- Jeff Lawson, Vice President of Tourism & Marketing - Hello Burlington
- Patrick O'Neil, Vice President of Finance & Operations
- Alex Bunten, Director of Workforce & Education
- Kevin Bushey, Visitor Center Operations Manager
- Tom Carton, Strategy & Operations Manager - Hello Burlington
- Amelia Cayer, Director of Communications & Engagement, Burlington Young Professionals Manager
- Austin Davis, Director of Government Affairs
- Noragh Devlin, Director of LaunchVT
- Keith Dunbar, Director of Membership & Development
- Betsy Muller, Social Media Manager - Hello Burlington
- Mari Breen Palace, Destination Sales Manager - Hello Burlington

In addition to the staff listed above, we are also thankful for our Tourism Ambassadors who work at our four LCC-operated Welcome Centers. Together, they welcomed almost 500,000 visitors to the State of Vermont in the past year.

WE INVITE YOU TO BE PART OF OUR WORK!

If you would like to learn more about how to get involved or the benefits of LCC Membership, [please get in touch.](#)

