

16th Annual Transition and Career Planning Conference

A Time for Gratitude and Appreciation

April 29, 2021 ♦ Keynote with Luis Ortega 10am – 11:30am

May 13, 2021 ♦ 1pm – 4pm ♦ Remote Sessions on ZOOM

Sponsored by:

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation

Vermont State GEAR UP

Vermont School Counselors Association

Vermont VocRehab

J Warren and Lois McClure Foundation

And partnering with the Vermont/New Hampshire Career Development Association

Invitation to Present

DUE Friday, February 19, 2021

Our 2020 keynote speaker, **Luis Ortega, Founder and Director** of [Storytellers for Change](#) has graciously agreed to join us this year on **Thursday, April 29** to launch two half days of gratitude and appreciation. Please join us if you are able!

Luis has worked with the conference planning committee to develop a message that highlights the importance of practicing empathy in our work to harness the power of narratives to create positive social change. This has been an incredible year. Our intention is to offer two partial days of gratitude and appreciation for the work school and agency personnel have put into this year of care during a pandemic.

We will continue with break-out sessions after our keynote (April 29 at 10am) on **Thursday, May 13th** with Luis returning to launch day two and we will carry his message into break-out sessions.

Thursday, April 29 10am – 11:30am

- 10:00 – 10:15am Welcome and agenda
- 10:15 – 11:15 Keynote with Luis Ortega
- 11:15 – 11:30 Closing remarks and schedule for Thursday, May 13

Thursday, May 13 1pm – 4pm

- 1:00 – 1:15 Refresher from Keynote
- 1:15 – 2:30 Breakout session I
- 2:30 – 2:45 Break
- 2:45 – 4:00 Breakout session II
- 4:00 Thank you and depart (from sessions)

This year we are focusing on:

- **Diversity and Inclusion** – the voices of many (our 2020 theme) – appreciation for all of us currently at the table and gratitude for all this year has thrown our way and how we rose to the occasion of taking care of our students, families, and ourselves.
 - **Diversity of experience** – given the return to education and community following a pandemic with much of the apparent focus on what students missed in terms of academic content, we want to actually highlight, address, and listen to what students gained in their experience and learning during
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the pandemic. What stories do they have to tell? What was their experience like? What learning did they engage in with family, friends, community? What was their authentic experience and how do we listen to that voice? How do we honor their experience – **and our own**?

- **Diversity of thought** – in that we are a country divided – a people at odds. How do we listen for understanding?
- **Creative release:** Zentangle, Yoga, Music – how to use this for yourself and in your practice or classroom.
- **Professional practice content:** Advance Vermont's new MyFutureVT platform, Transition plans, Vermont Afterschool, Inc. youth voice and engagement, student/client advocacy, Vermont AOE updates, and VSAC presentations.

The Transition and Career Planning Conference brings together a mix of education and vocational professionals from all over the region. We welcome **proposals for 75-minute workshops** that relate to student, client, and educator inspired coaching, teaching, and learning.

The goal of this year's conference is to provide participants with an opportunity to better understand how to prepare Vermont students and adults to launch into meaningful careers. Today's workforce and Vermont students are increasingly diverse. We need to build our toolkit to better see ALL students and serve them in their transition. With this in mind, the conference is structured to strengthen the transferable skills of empathy, inclusion, and equity. We strive to place the learner at the center of every interaction, every plan, every opportunity, and every lesson.

Further, we would like to offer sessions that allow participants to practice their own wellness and health needs. Through these sessions, participants will learn and practice techniques they can share in their classrooms and work/home environments.

Please consider the following questions as you prepare your proposal:

- How will your workshop highlight the importance of practicing empathy?
- How will your workshop highlight the importance of empathizing (understand the experiences) with students?
- How will your workshop address the challenges faced by students and communities most impacted by inequity, missed opportunity, and coming back from a pandemic where experiences were wholly different across the board for students, clients, and ourselves?
- How will your workshop address the importance of diversity, inclusion, accessibility, and racial equity?
- How can your workshop offer an outlet of wellness and focus for yourself, your students, and/or your clients?

Topics to consider for 2021 include:

- Transferrable Skills Development
- Career and College Ready Tools for 9-12
- Setting up and Sustaining Strong Internships and Job-Shadowing
- Apprenticeships and Work Based Learning
- Anxiety and Worry in Children
- Being Seen and Heard: Are we working from a place of inclusion?
- Student Voice: We are asking but are we listening?

We are also hoping for presenters who can address the following topics:

- The Vermont Labor Market: an ever-changing landscape
- Educational Communities: stronger together
- Vermont Career and Technical Education

Send to: Cathy Printon
VSAC's Career & Education Outreach Program
printon@vsac.org

The conference committee thanks you for your expertise and interest in being part of this year's conference.

16th Annual Transition and Career Planning Conference
May 13, 2021 (Breakout sessions)
Remote on ZOOM
Workshop Proposal

Your Name, Place of work, & Position:

Contact information (please include email address):

Please list the name, title, and employer of everyone who is co-presenting with you (for mention in the program):

Workshop Title and description:

Please share your thoughts about how your workshop will benefit attendees:

Audience (circle all that apply): Elementary School Middle School High School Adults General

Are you willing to repeat your workshop if needed? **Yes** **No**

Please return your workshop proposal by February 19, 2021 to:

Cathy Printon
VSAC's Career & Education Outreach Program
Email address: printon@vsac.org **802-363-3168**
