



Meet the Panelists



Dr. Katherine Merrick, DMD, MPH

Dental Resident

UVM Medical Center

Katie grew up in Vermont and received her BA in Chemistry from Middlebury College. She then attended the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine to pursue her Doctor of Dental Medicine and Master's in Public Health degrees. She returned to her home state for advanced training in general dentistry through the General Practice Residency at the University of Vermont Medical Center. She plans to stay in Vermont to practice dentistry to follow her passions of improving access to oral health care, medical-dental integration, and preventative care.



Brian Steele,

Master Electrician and Stage Technician

Self employed

Born and raised in VT, a trade school and college graduate, I've let my personal interests direct my career path. Out of high school I was a construction laborer and electrician's assistant. When I decided to go to college for music those trade skills gave me a work study job in the theatre. 15 years of early mornings and late nights taught me how to work in every segment of the entertainment industry but kids and those hours don't work together. When my first child was born I went back to school and back to the construction trades. Electricianing turns out to be a good fit for me. I work with my hands and every project requires creativity, skills and knowledge.



Sara Vargo,

GEAR UP Outreach Counselor | Clinical Social Worker | Small Installation Design

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation | Freelance Designer

Sara grew up in Vermont and received her BA in Sociology and Environmental Studies from St. Lawrence University. After a short stint as a ski coach in California, Sara returned East and received her Master's in Clinical Social Work from Smith where she then spent years working as a therapist with children, adolescents, and families. Sara has both a desire to work on inequities found throughout our society, as well as a passion for art and design. She continues to work on finding ways to integrate both pieces into her work life, most recently working as a VSAC Outreach Counselor during the day and pursuing small installation design on the side.



Django Koenig,

Support Representative

Cox Automotive (Dealer.com)

Django grew up in Vermont and received a BA in Music from Johnson State College (now Northern Vermont University). After college he spent several years in Oregon farming and touring the United States with various musical projects. During this time, he built himself a website which sparked his journey into the tech realm, building websites as a freelance developer; This eventually brought him back to Vermont for Burlington Code Academy's summer bootcamp in 2019. Django has been a Support Representative at Dealer.com since April 2020.