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## Over 400 Girls Explore Trades and Technology Careers at 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Women Can Do Conference

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**Press Release**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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Over 400 high school girls and their chaperones/teachers from across Vermont and parts of New Hampshire descended on Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center today for Vermont Works for Women's **13<sup>th</sup> annual Women Can Do conference**. They participated in over 40 different workshops, interacted with dozens of women working in nontraditional fields, and engaged in hands-on learning experiences through an exposition of tools and techniques – all designed to encourage their interest in taking technical courses, enrolling at technical high schools, and considering nontraditional careers.

“Our expanded Action Expo – under a tent this year for the first time -- was successful in providing participants with more time to explore a greater number of experiential learning opportunities,” said Kelly Walsh, coordinator of girls programming at VWW. “The girls really got a taste of a wide variety of trades and technology careers by going from station to station trying out new tools and techniques.”

In addition to the Action Expo, the workshop offerings highlighted emerging high tech and green energy careers as well as jobs in architecture and engineering, information technology and computers, natural resources, public safety and health, communications, trades, and other non-traditional careers.

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### **Vermont Works for Women**

is a 501c3 nonprofit organization founded in 1987 to help women and girls recognize their potential and explore, pursue and excel in work that leads to economic independence.

32A Malletts Bay Avenue ♦ Winooski ♦ Vermont ♦ 05404  
[www.vtworksforwomen.org](http://www.vtworksforwomen.org) ♦ 802.655.8900 or 800.639.8922 ♦ [www.rosiesgirls.org](http://www.rosiesgirls.org)



“With recent reports forecasting significant labor shortages in the skilled trades and numerous studies pointing to the economic and social value of investing in women, the Women Can Do conference can be a catalyst for inspiring girls to consider technical education and careers,” said Tiffany Bluemle, Executive Director of Vermont Works for Women. “Between the workshops and Action Expo, many girls discovered today that a whole new world of opportunity awaits them.”

Women Can Do is a program of Vermont Works for Women whose mission is to help women and girls recognize their potential and explore, pursue and excel in work that leads to economic independence. Generous support for the conference comes from Vermont Technical College, the Vermont Department of Education, the Vermont Department of Labor, the Vermont Commission on Women, and the Vermont Agency of Transportation -- as well as from career and technical high schools throughout the state.

Additional support for the Action Expo came from Fairpoint Communications, Community National Bank, VTC – Technology Extension, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, Preci Manufacturing, Universal Technical Institute, and AllEarth Renewables.

For more information, contact Lucy Comstock-Gay at 802-655-8900, ext. 110, 603-731-6041 (cell) or [lcomstockgay@vtworkforwomen.org](mailto:lcomstockgay@vtworkforwomen.org). Additional information can be found at [www.vtworksforwomen.org](http://www.vtworksforwomen.org).

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Conference participants represent the following schools:

Barre Technical Center  
Bellows Free Academy, St. Albans  
Caledonia School, St. Johnsbury  
Canaan Schools  
Central VT Academy, Barre  
Cold Hollow Career Center, Enosburg Falls  
Cornerstone Christian School, Lyndonville  
Center for Technology Essex  
Champlain Valley Union High School, Hinesburg  
Craftsbury Academy, Craftsbury  
Jean Garvin School, Williston  
Green Mountain Technical Center, Hyde Park  
Hartford Area Career and Technology Center, White River Junction  
Harwood Union, St. Duxbury  
Hinsdale, Hinsdale (NH)  
Lamoille Union, Hyde Park

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Laraway School, Johnson  
LEARN, Lyndonville  
Leland & Gray Union Middle and High School, Townshend  
Lyndon Institute, Lyndon  
Mill River Union High School, N. Clarendon  
New Horizons (Lund Family Center), Burlington  
Montpelier High School  
Northfield Middle and High School  
People's Academy, Morrisville  
Randolph Technical Career Center  
Rivendell Academy, Orford, NH  
River Valley Technical Center, Springfield  
St. Johnsbury Academy  
S. Burlington School District  
Southwest VT Career Development Center, Bennington  
Stafford Technical Center, Rutland  
Stowe High School  
Whitcomb Junior/Senior High School, Bethel  
Windham Regional Career Center, Brattleboro

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