

Seek To Do More

News From The Snelling Center for Government

Spring 2008

*"Our pride in Vermont and its history is one of our strengths...It is an exceptional quality which encourages Vermonters to seek to do more than might otherwise seem possible."
- Governor Richard A. Snelling*



The mission of the Snelling Center for Government is to foster responsible and ethical civic leadership, encourage public service by private citizens, and promote informed citizen participation in shaping public policy in Vermont.

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SPOTLIGHT: BARBARA W. SNELLING

We have a new name! We are now the **Richard A. and Barbara W. Snelling Center for Government**. The Snelling Center's board of directors voted unanimously to change the name in recognition of Barbara Snelling's distinguished decades-long service to Vermont in both the public and private sectors.

Chittenden Bank Donates \$20,000 to the Richard A. and Barbara W. Snelling Center for Government in Honor of Barbara Snelling

The Snelling Center's new name was unveiled at a reception hosted by Chittenden Bank in honor of Barbara Snelling on February 7, 2008. Chittenden Bank president Michael Seaver and general counsel Sheldon Prentice spoke in glowing terms of Barbara Snelling's strong leadership and clear vision as chairman of Chittenden's board of directors during a period of significant growth and success for the bank.

Many friends and colleagues, including Governor Douglas, were on hand to celebrate Barbara Snelling and her invaluable contribution to Vermont.



(left to right) Sheldon Prentice, Michael Seaver, Charlie Smith, Nancy Port, Barbara Snelling, Governor Douglas

LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Vermont Leadership Institute Class of 2009

The Snelling Center is now accepting applications to the Vermont Leadership Institute Class of 2009. This intensive 10-month program will be entering its 14th year as the state's premier leadership development program. The application deadline is **March 28, 2008**.

For more information, please call Susan McCormack at 859-3090 ext. 311 or visit our Web site.

Rozo McLaughlin Remembered

There will be a special event at the statehouse in Montpelier on Thursday, April 3, 2008 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm to celebrate the life of Representative Rozo McLaughlin (VLI 2006). Sadly, Rozo passed away in the fall of 2006 after battling cancer. Organized by Representative Sarah Copeland Hanzas (VLI 2006) and her fellow VLI 2006 classmates, this event will honor Rozo's life and her many contributions to Vermont. All are welcome to this celebration of a remarkable and unforgettable woman.

VLI NEWSMAKERS

Hal Colston (VLI 2004) was profiled in the February 11, 2008 issue of *People Magazine* in its “Heroes Among Us” section for his founding of Good News Garage. While Hal has moved on from GNG, he is still doing amazing things. In 2004, Hal created NeighborKeepers, a non-profit organization committed to “breaking the bonds of poverty one family at a time” (www.neighborkeepers.org). For Hal’s hard work, dedication, vision, and great sense of humor, he truly is a “hero among us.”

The Girl Scout Council of Vermont honored former governor Madeleine Kunin, **Representative Denise Barnard** (VLI 2007) and **Judith Irving** (VLI 1998) as Champions for Girls. The award recognizes a life-long commitment to improving the lives of girls in the state of Vermont and beyond.

POLICY CORNER

Constitutional Amendment Testimony

In testimony before the Government Operations Committee of the Vermont Senate, Charlie Smith, President of the Snelling Center for Government, presented the findings from 15 months of survey and outreach work on the question of whether Vermont’s elected leaders should have four-year terms of office. Smith said, “Our primary conclusion is that more than 58% of Vermonters favor a four-year term for the governor and statewide elected officials.” Further, Smith said, “Support for changing the senate term to four years hovers around 50%, and a majority of Vermonters oppose changing the term length for Vermont’s state representatives.”

The Snelling Center’s research included statistically valid random sample surveys in October 2006 and 2007. It also included 900 responses from surveys administered on the Web, in group meetings around the state, and by paper ballot through the mail.

For a link to the full report, please visit www.snellingcenter.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, May 29, 2008

The Snelling Center is organizing a public symposium entitled **Fulfilling Vermont’s e-State Potential: Building Real Community In a “Connected Age.”** The symposium will explore public policy issues, opportunities, and potential obstacles that will arise as Vermont becomes a fully connected state.

To sign up to receive notice of the symposium offerings and schedule as it develops, please contact jen@snellingcenter.org or call 802-859-3090.

SCG NEWS

Jen Eldred has joined the Snelling Center staff as administrative and communications associate. She replaces Katelyn Ritchie who, after many years with the Snelling Center, has moved on (upstairs) to the Spencer Group. Katelyn will be missed, but she won’t be far away.

Welcome Jen and best wishes Katelyn!

Another way to stay in touch and up-to-the-minute is through our Web site at www.snellingcenter.org.

You can also let us know what works best for you. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please let us know at jen@snellingcenter.org.

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