

Seek To Do More

News from the Snelling Center for Government

Summer 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: Celebration of Leadership Vermont Leadership Institute Class of 2008

On Saturday, June 7th friends and family gathered at Basin Harbor Club in Vergennes to celebrate the 13th class of the Vermont Leadership Institute. This year's 27 graduates from around the state were honored for their commitment and dedication to leadership in Vermont.

As part of the afternoon ceremony, Sister Janice Ryan, in honor of her more than 30 years of service to the state and people of Vermont, received the prestigious Patricia S. Walton Award for Public Service to Vermont, an award conferred by the Vermont Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration and the University of Vermont. Mary Powell, Chief Operating Officer and CEO-elect of Green Mountain Power Corporation, delivered the keynote address. In sharing the story of her leadership journey, her message highlighted the power of saying "yes" in life.

Congratulations VLI Class of 2008!



Wendy Beach

Sandra Berbeco

Shaun Donahue

Sandra Everitt

Alexandra Forbes

Meg Handler

June Heston

Allison Hicks

Terry Hoffer

Monica Hutt

Dzeneta Karabegovic

Sperry Wilson Kelley

Robert Klein

J. Ladd

Anne Lezak

Lisa Menard

Katie Mobley

Dawn Moskowitz

Karen Nevin

Alexis Nowalk

Sue Sargent

Adrian Segar

Chapin Spencer

Martha Trombley Oakes

David Tucker

Lajiri Van Ness-Otunnu

Bonnie Waninger

The Vermont Leadership Institute is the state's premier civic leadership development program. More than 300 graduates are actively shaping Vermont's future by serving in the legislature, holding state and local offices, heading non-profit organizations from the arts to human services, serving on boards, volunteering in their communities, and leading in their places of work. This year's class included leaders from across Vermont, representing the public sector (8), the private sector (12), and the non-profit sector (7).

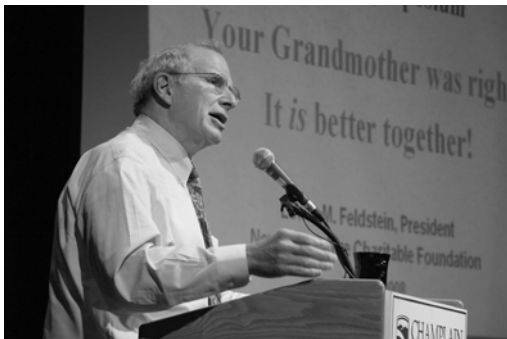
The Vermont Leadership Institute's Excellence in Leadership Award In honor of Jan Eastman

Snelling Center president Charlie Smith announced the creation of the Excellence in Leadership Award in honor of Jan Eastman. Jan was president of the Snelling Center for Government from 1992 to 2006, and was the founder of the Vermont Leadership Institute. We at the Snelling Center owe a tremendous debt to Jan and her vision, and we are pleased to announce this award in her honor.

The first Excellence in Leadership Award will be presented next year at VLI commencement to a Vermont Leadership Institute alumnus/alumna who, since completing VLI, has made a significant contribution to Vermont and its community life, and has demonstrated skillful and innovative leadership and vision. Nominations and advisory commentary will be accepted from Vermont Leadership Institute alumni, with a final decision made by the Snelling Center's board in consultation with Jan Eastman.

POLICY CORNER

Champlain College was the site of a state-wide public symposium entitled **Fulfilling Vermont's e-State Potential: Building Real Community in a "Connected Age."** The day-long symposium on May 29th explored public policy issues, opportunities, and potential obstacles and conflicts that could arise as Vermont becomes a fully connected state. Keynote speaker Lewis Feldstein, co-author (with Robert Putnam) of *Better Together: Restoring the American Community*, spoke of the importance of building social capital through strong community connections.



Symposium organizers, the Snelling Center and Champlain College, were extremely pleased when 135 people participated, with people traveling from across the state and others participating through live Web feeds from four remote sites. Forty high school and college students also participated, providing important age diversity in the

discussion groups and presentations. Out of the gathering emerged a number of citizen working groups. These groups will build on the conversations of the day and take forward concerns and opportunities, actively reaching out to those not yet part of the deliberations. For more information, including how to get involved, please visit <http://www.snellingcenter.org/Estate-community/>.

SCG NEWS

Snelling Center for Government was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Successful Communities Fund of The Vermont Community Foundation for the 2008 Vermont School Leadership Project.

The Vermont School Leadership Project ("VSLP") is an intensive 18-month program designed for mid-career educators seeking to take their change management skills to a higher level. The VSLP is the only setting in Vermont where a cohort of experienced peer educators can work and learn together, share best practices, work through the concepts of 'whole system thinking,' and grapple with leadership techniques and practices that are effective both in the schools and in the greater community.

Congratulations to the fabulous Snelling Center marathon teams for their impressive showing at the 2008 KeyBank Vermont City Marathon!



Kevin O'Donnell, VLI 2000, SCG Board of Directors

Special thanks to Andrea Sisino (VLI 2006) of RunVermont for donating two teams to benefit VLI.

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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