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# GBIC

*Good Jobs In A Clean Environment*

## Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation



Dear partners,

Welcome to August! The summer has flown by.

We have had a busy, exciting quarter, conducting employer visits, hosting our 70th Annual Meeting, and much more.

Simultaneously, Chittenden County and other parts of the state have been damaged again by flooding. Many thanks go to the numerous organizations and individuals who have helped clean out basements, rebuild roads, and get Vermont back on track. If you have experienced flood-related damages, please take the time to report your losses to the Vermont Department of Economic Development's [Flood Damage Survey for Businesses](#) and Vermont 211's [Business](#) and [Resident](#) forms. Responding to these forms is imperative as Vermont seeks federal financial aid for flood relief. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have further questions.

We wish you all our best for the rest of the summer and look forward to being in touch.

Yours,  
The GBIC Team

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## Employer Visits



Commissioner Joan Goldstein, Town of Colchester Director of Economic Development Kathi O'Reilly, and Alex visit Mark Elvidge at Vermont Nut Free Chocolates.

We had a great quarter of key employer visits, which we conducted with partners from the Vermont Department of Economic Development, Vermont Economic Progress Council, and several municipalities. Many thanks to: Benchmark Space Systems; Champlain Cable; Dynapower; Gordini; Green Mountain Semiconductor; Hazelett Strip-Casting; NuHarbor Security; Twincraft Skincare; and Vermont Nut Free Chocolates.

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## GBIC/Cynosure 70th Annual Meeting



We were thrilled to hold our 70th Annual Meeting at the ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain.

### **2024 Robert A. Skiff Community Improvement Award**

**Senator Jane Kitchel** was awarded the **2024 Robert A. Skiff Community Improvement Award**. The award seeks to recognize an outstanding Vermonter who has worked to improve community, educational and economic opportunities for the citizens of Chittenden County and the State of Vermont. Senator Kitchel was selected in recognition of her truly significant contributions and her passionate dedication towards improving community and the economic well-being of the citizens of the State of Vermont. Her hard work and profound dedication to public service in our State is an inspiration to all Vermonters.

### **2024 C. Harry Behney Lifetime Economic Development Achievement Award**

**Lisa and Roland Groeneveld** were awarded the **2024 C. Harry Behney Lifetime Economic Development Achievement Award**. The award is given annually at the GBIC

Annual Meeting to outstanding Vermonters who have greatly and positively impacted the economy of Vermont and improved the economic well-being of Vermonters and their communities. Lisa and Roland were selected for their amazing entrepreneurial passion rooted in innovation and for their steadfast commitment to job creation in Vermont. Their incredible creativity and vision, hard work and passionate dedication have made Vermont a better place.

## **2024 Ernest A. Pomerleau Outstanding Young Vermonter Scholarship**

**Sharif Sharif** was awarded the **2024 Ernest A. Pomerleau Outstanding Young Vermonter Scholarship**. The recipient must be an outstanding Vermont high school graduating senior in Chittenden County who has excelled as a well-rounded leader in their school. The student should be regarded as a person of integrity and honesty who has demonstrated caring and compassion for others. The student shall possess the value of being a good person that has led through example, which is the foundation of outstanding character. Sharif embodies these values: Sharif was a standout basketball player at Rice Memorial High School and is looking forward to playing on Norwich's Varsity Basketball Team. He will be studying at Norwich to fulfill his dream of becoming a physical education teacher.

Thanks to the many public servants, business leaders, and community members who were able to attend.

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## **Leahy Institute Announces New Grant Cycle for Fall 2024**

In February, the Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships announced its [first round of grant funding](#), attracting a total of 140 proposals. With the help of the Leahy Institute's board of advisors, 13 projects were awarded, with a total investment of over \$1.7 million. Now the Leahy Institute is gearing up for a second round of grants in partnership with Vermont leaders working towards solutions to rural challenges in a variety of focus areas including regenerative agriculture, community schools, transit and housing, policy and governance, rural health care, resilient energy and other sectors. The Leahy Institute will award Capacity Grants (up to \$10,000 per organization), an entry track for organizations who have a vision for positive rural impact, and Partnership Grants (up to \$250,000) to fund research, stakeholder engagement initiatives, student internships and service-learning experiences, and business plan development for early-stage start-ups. The submission deadline is September 13; funding will be announced December 18.

[Find out more here.](#)

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## **2024 College Graduates: Get Money to Stay in Vermont**

The State of Vermont, UVM and the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) jointly sponsor the Green Mountain Job and Retention Program (GMJRP) which incentivizes graduates from Vermont colleges and universities to stay, live, and work in the state. Students who graduated from any Vermont university or college between December 2023 and June 2024 with either a bachelor's or master's degree, who live in Vermont, and who will be working full-time with a Vermont-based employer for two years after graduation, are eligible for up to \$5,000 in student loan repayments. If you know a recent college grad living and working in Vermont, they may be eligible for this program. Let them know!

[Learn more here.](#)

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## **New Unemployment Mandate for Small Nonprofits**

As of July 1st, all Vermont employers, regardless of size, must participate in unemployment insurance for their employees. Before this law (Act 76) was passed, nonprofits with fewer than 4 employees were exempt from participating in the insurance program.

Visit the Department of Labor website for more information [here](#).

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## **About GBIC:**

As the certified non-profit economic development corporation serving Chittenden County, GBIC is dedicated to implementing our vision of a thriving Lake Champlain region. This includes an economic environment providing meaningful employment consistent with an uncompromised natural environment, enabling present and future generations of Vermonters to live, learn, work, and play in the Champlain Valley.

GBIC strives to attract, retain, and expand environmentally sensitive high-paying jobs in the Champlain Valley, and to initiate and support advocacy, education, and collaborative programs in promoting our Vision.

Visit [gbicvt.org](http://gbicvt.org)

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## **GBIC Staff:**



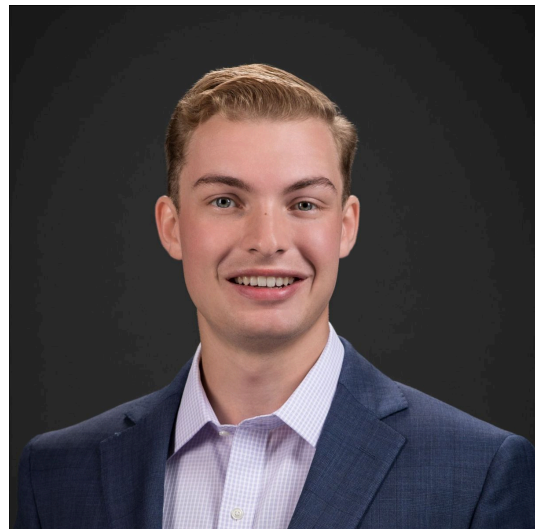
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Curt Carter  
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Alex Demoly  
Vice President

## Partners:

- [Agency of Commerce and Community Development](#)
- [Department of Economic Development](#)
- [Vermont Small Business Development Center](#)
- [SCORE Vermont](#)
- [Vermont COVID Information](#)
- [Vermont Labor Market Information](#)
- [Vermont Economic Development Authority](#)
- [Vermont Employment Growth Incentive](#)
- [Vermont Training Program](#)
- [Vermont Community Development Program](#)
- [Vermont Center for Emerging Technology](#)
- [Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center](#)

- [Vermont APEX Accelerator](#)
  - [Efficiency Vermont](#)
  - [Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission](#)
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