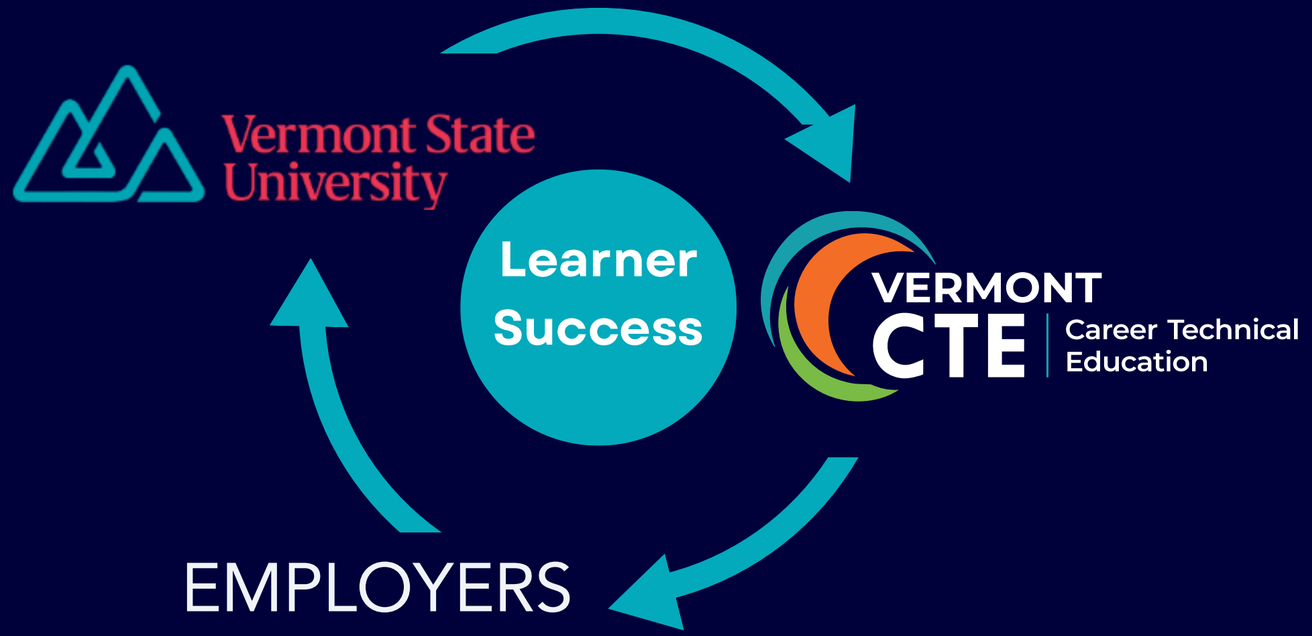
Vermont State University

Building Vermont's Regional Automotive & Diesel Workforce Pipeline

The Opportunity



Together we can create:

Regional Access

Hands-on Workforce Training

Clear Educational Entry Points

Strong Employee Partnerships

Stackable Pathways

Step 1 - Automotive & Diesel Foundations

A short-term hand-on workforce training program desing to prepare adult learners for entry-level employment and continued technical training.

1 Focus Areas

- Shop safety
- Basic maintenance operations
- Tool and equipment familiarity
- Introductory diagnostics
- Workplace professionalism
- Customer service and workflow
- ASE Entry-Level preparation exposure

2 Outcomes

Learners are prepared for:

- lube technician roles
- maintenance assistant positions
- entry-level fleet or diesel support roles
- continued training/apprenticeship pathways

Regional Access

TARGET AUDIENCE

ADULT LEARNERS

CAREER CHANGERS

RECENT GRADS

RURAL VERMONTERS

NEW AMERICANS

If training only exists in one location, many capable Vermonters simply cannot participate.

Regional Delivery Through Partnership

VTSU Responsibilities
Curriculum Oversight
Student Registration
Program Coordination
Instructor Recruitment and Support
Marketing and Recruitment
Assessment & Credentialing

CTE Responsibilities
Shop/Lab Access
Shared Equipment Acess
Site Scheduling Coordination
Local Operational Coordination
Partnership Communication
Safe Training Environment

The goal is to minimize administrative burden on CTE partners while leveraging existing infrastructure.

What We Are Asking From CTE Partners

Facility Access

- Automotive/diesel lab space
- Classroom space
- Evening or agreed-upon scheduling access
- Limited storage access

Equipment Access

- Existing instructional equipment
- Training vehicles (where appropriate)
- Shared shop infrastructure

Collaboration

- Regional planning discussions
- Scheduling coordination
- Safety alignment
- Employer engagement support

Preliminary Facility & Equipment Needs

Facility Needs

- 1+ Shop Bays
- Basic Classroom Access
- Secure Storage
- Internet/Computer Access
- PPE & Safety Equipment Access

Example Equipment

- Vehicle Lifts
- Hand Tools
- Torque Wrench
- Diagnostic Scanners
- Battery Testing Equipmemt
- Oil Drain Systems
- Jacks/jack Stands
- Tire Service Equipment

Saftey Comes First

Formal agreements and operational procedures would be developed collaboratively prior to launch.

Things like:

- OSHA Considerations
- PPE Requirements
- Tool/equipment usage expectations
- Emergency procedures
- Supervision protocols
- Insurance & liability coordination
- Student conduct expectations

Building Stackable Workforce Pathways

The long-term vision is not simply short-term training. It is creating sustainable regional workforce pathways conneted to Vermont employers and continued education opportunities.

3 Employement or Apprenticeship or Degree Pathway

2 Advanced Technical Training

1 Automotive & Diesel Foundations

Starting Small & Building Thoughtfully

Launch a practical, sustainable model first, then scale intentionally.

Proposed Pilot Model

- 1–3 regional pilot sites
- Evening or hybrid scheduling
- Small initial cohorts
- Employer-supported learning opportunities
- Continuous evaluation and refinement

Vermont State University

Program Contact

Nikole Thayer
Executive Director CWPE
nikole.thayer@vermontstate.edu