

Sgorbati honored with first-ever VCF award

BENNINGTON — Susan Sgorbati, a member of the Bennington College faculty for more than 20 years, recently became the first-ever recipient of the David G. Rahr Vermont Community Service Award from the Vermont Community Foundation.

Sgorbati, a teacher of dance and mediation, was honored for her development of and work with at-risk youth in the college's Quantum Leap program, her founding of a Vermont choreographer's workshop, her contribution for the Governor's Institute on the Arts, and her mediation skills for the state of Vermont's Attorney General's Office and Human Rights Commission, among other initiatives she is involved in locally and statewide.

"I am so honored to receive the David G. Rahr Award. It is only because the Vermont Community Foundation's work is so important to the people of our state, that I feel comfortable accepting this honor on behalf of all the citizens of Vermont," said Sgorbati.

"This honor recognizes a Vermonter who works behind the scenes, is guided by a sense of purpose, and adds value and vision to community-building," said Vicky Young, VCF board chairwoman. "Sgorbati has exemplified these values since she first arrived in Vermont to earn her degree in dance from Bennington College, which she did in 1972," added Young.

The VCF award, named for the organization's founding president, recognizes an individual or group that has made a significant and creative contribution to their community. Nominees will be accept-

ed from a different Vermont region each year. This year's nominees were from Rutland and Bennington counties.

The Vermont Community Foundation is a statewide grant-making organization that manages more than 500 charitable funds for individuals, businesses and nonprofits. As announced during the group's annual meeting, VCF has recently passed several key milestones, including \$100 million in total assets and more than \$50 million in total grants made since its founding in 1986.

With colleague Daniel Michaelson, Sgorbati created and directs Quantum Leap, a mediation program for the Bennington County School System, which reconnects the public school students to their education by allowing the students to participate in the design of their own education, a practice modeled after Bennington College's educational philosophy.

Sgorbati was appointed to hold the prestigious Barbara and Lewis Jones Chair at the College for her commitment to this kind of work in social activism.

Bennington College (www.bennington.edu), a nationally recognized liberal arts college founded in 1932, is located on 550 acres in the Green Mountains of southwestern Vermont, has an enrollment of 790 students (640 undergraduate, 150 graduate), and offers a full range of study, with programs in the humanities, natural sciences, mathematics, social sciences, and visual and performing arts, as well as a five-year bachelor's master's degree in teaching.

Celebrating people in partnership

BENNINGTON — The community is invited to the Bennington County School and Workforce Partnership's annual meeting, "Celebrating People in Partnership," on Friday, Oct. 29, 8 to 10:30 a.m. in the new Mount Anthony Union Middle School on East Road.

The event begins with breakfast and keynote speaker Dr. Charles Johnson of the Vermont Department of Education, focusing on the theme of the day.

This will be followed by round-robin presentations to highlight new initiatives. There will also be opportunity for members to provide input on the organization's workplan, and awards to honor the people who've made notable contributions to the school and workforce development efforts in the past year.

The Bennington County School and Workforce Partnership is an organization of educators, employers, and human-service

providers dedicated to strengthening workforce quality in the region. We identify local workforce needs and coordinate the resources necessary to meet those needs through member collaboration, grant seeking, and program development. To attend the annual meeting, register with Noelle Murphy at 447-1112. The partnership asks for a \$10 registration fee to support the work of the organization and to help defray the cost of the breakfast.



JP
Anthony Union High
Mobil stations, the high
grants to help fund
will take place through
Exxon Mobil Educa-
provide an opportunity
of their communities
collaborating schools.
Mini-Mart, Maguire's
eli, Earl's Service Sta-
Paulin's Exxon.

ities recognize the out-
service-related achieve-

Ryan McVeigh, son of Scott and
Lari McVeigh of Bennington, Vt.,

audience. MCLA's new faculty
costume designer, Dawn Sham-

community will be focused on a
single reading selection. The pub-