



# CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE

163 South Willard Street  
P.O. Box 670  
Burlington, VT 05402-0670  
(802) 860-2700 | (800) 570-5858  
*fax* (802) 860-2767  
[www.champlain.edu](http://www.champlain.edu)

July 27, 2011

John Fischer, Director, High School and Adult Division  
Vermont Department of Education  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2501

Dear Mr. Fischer,

This letter is in support of the work that South Burlington High School has done in developing a unique and rich applied academic experience for their students.

I first became involved with Big Picture Learning via Tim Wile, Guidance Counselor at South Burlington High School, when he requested input on how to document the outcomes of Big Picture Learning students for college selection. From the time I started learning about the program, I became increasingly interested in its mission, appropriateness for today's labor market, and overall quality of execution. More importantly, when listening and hearing the students present their learning outcomes, from their practicum, I was blown away with how the students could easily make connections between academic theory and real-world practice; something that colleges and universities are striving for given the unfortunate gaps between theory and practice at some institutions.

Over this past year, I am hopeful that Champlain College has been a valuable partner in this program. We feel good about the transcript we helped Big Picture South Burlington develop as it highlights their students' performances, skills and knowledge. We hope we can continue the partnership for years to come. At Champlain College, we hope our students can make the connections between knowledge and practice, and the Big Picture South Burlington program is creating the trend that many high schools and colleges will want to emulate.

Please let me know if I can advocate further for this program. It has been a pleasure to learn, support and be a partner of Big Picture South Burlington.

Sincerely,

Ian Mortimer  
Vice President for Enrollment Management

802.651.5911  
[mortimer@champlain.edu](mailto:mortimer@champlain.edu)