



Vermont Council on Rural Development

43 State Street, PO Box 1384, Montpelier VT 05601-1384



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Contact: e-Vermont Project Director Helen Labun Jordan, 225-6091, Helen@vtrural.org

***e-Vermont* Names Community Directors**

MONTPELIER, VT – Philip Petty and Sean Sheehan have been hired by the Vermont Council on Rural Development as Community Directors for *e-Vermont*, the Community Broadband Project. This new two-year initiative is beginning in a dozen selected communities across the state. *e-Vermont* will provide the digital tools and in-depth training needed to help these rural towns take full advantage of the Internet to create jobs, drive school innovation, provide social services, and increase civic involvement. Petty and Sheehan will spend much of their time coordinating and leading this effort.

Petty brings his 30 years of experience as a faculty member at Vermont Technical College to this *e-Vermont* position. He recently served as Instructional Technology Coordinator and Interim Director of the Center for Sustainable Practices at the school. Petty is an exceptional listener and communicator, and describes himself as a “passionate Internet citizen.” He earned his B.A. at UVM and an M.S. in Botany and Plant Pathology at Michigan State University.

Sheehan worked with the Center for A New American Dream for 12 years, where his management and communication skills were invaluable as he helped start and grow the organization. He is a team-builder who has forged hundreds of organizational partnerships and mobilized thousands of volunteers on advocacy and educational campaigns. His experience with public opinion research, on-line resources, and consensus building will help him hit the ground running. Sheehan earned his B.A. at American University and Masters in Public Administration at the Harvard Kennedy School.

The *e-Vermont* Partnership is led by VCRD and is made up of the Vermont State Colleges, the Vermont Department of Libraries, the Vermont Department of Public Service, Vermont Small Business Development Center, the Snelling Center for Government, Front Porch Forum, Digital Wish, Evslin Family Foundation and Vermont Community Foundation. *e-Vermont* is supported by a \$2.5 million stimulus grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Vermont philanthropists, and corporate partners.

Contact *e-Vermont* at 802-223-6091 or by email at info@vtrural.org. *e-Vermont* updates are posted at www.vtrural.org.