



Champlain Valley Union High School, Vermont
Opinion Editorial
By Andre LaChance

For 50 years, CVU has served its community proudly. Thousands of graduates have taken what they have learned and become thoughtful, engaged, and caring citizens. As we begin our next 50 years, CVU is charged with preparing students for an increasingly complex and challenging world. We become more and more knowledgeable about learning (thanks to education research and neuroscience) almost every day; it is our responsibility to use this knowledge to improve what we do. We are concerned that students are leaving high school without all the tools they need for continuing their education and beginning careers in this quickly evolving society.

When a home ages, the homeowners take stock of what to keep and what to remodel. How is the roof? The flooring? The heating system? Do the kitchen and baths meet the changing needs of a family? Many parts of a CVU education will continue to serve us well and should continue to be celebrated. With the growing knowledge of what learners need to be successful, CVU has embarked on a remodeling effort so that all students can LEARN actively and collaboratively, THINK creatively and critically, LIVE responsibly and respectfully, CONTRIBUTE positively to the community, and DEVELOP EXCELLENCE in individual interests.

We are in the midst of understanding how to effectively use standards-based learning as proficiency-based will soon be required by the state. We are also beginning our work to effectively meet the state mandate, Act 77, which requires personalized learning plans and encourages flexible pathways for engaged students who are empowered as equal partners.

The job of educating our students can no longer be limited to the walls of CVU. Shaping our next 50 years together will require all members of our community to play important roles—as students embrace real-life opportunities and choose

meaningful career development experiences. Students, educators, administrators, school boards, parents, business leaders, higher education representatives, and every CSSU citizen must join together to reshape what it means to offer all of our young people a meaningful education, so that we can continue to benefit for another 50 years from graduates who become thoughtful, effective, and knowledgeable neighbors. .