



## **For Immediate Release:**

### **Vermont Parent Information Center**

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## **Vermont Family-Centered Non-profit receives \$3.3 million grant to Improve Student Achievement and Promote Parent Involvement in Education**

### **Williston, Vermont:**

The Vermont Parent Information Center (VPIC) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a five-year grant totaling over \$3.3 million from the US Department of Education to support and promote parent involvement – particularly among low income and minority families – in their child's education and to build partnerships between parents and professionals to improve educational outcomes for children.

The grant funds – awarded as part of a national initiative related to the No Child Left Behind Act – are being used to create a parent information and resource center known as ***PIRC-Vermont***. This is a sponsored project undertaken in collaboration with the 16 Parent Child Centers that make up the statewide Vermont Parent Child Center Network and Parent to Parent of Vermont.

***PIRC-Vermont's*** objectives are twofold. One is to utilize and expand the available statewide support systems of the project partners to help parents gain the information, skills and confidence to be successful as both their child's first teacher as well as their academic partner – working together with educational professionals - from birth through high school.

The second goal is to work with the Vermont Department of Education, other state agencies, and local school districts and educational professionals to help them achieve greater parental involvement.

***PIRC-Vermont*** intends to serve over 5,700 families and 1,500 professionals each year through its targeted activities. The services and programs parents and families will be able to access include a telephone helpline; workshops; informal gatherings; skills-

based trainings, parenting classes, and facilitated teacher meetings. Educators, administrators and policy makers will be supported by activities including training programs, presentations, technical assistance, and an annual conference. The activities of **PIRC-Vermont** will be supported and overseen by a State board to assist with the implementation and evaluation of its activities.

According to Connie Curtin, Executive Director of VPIC and Project Director of **PIRC-Vermont**, *“this grant offers us the opportunity to partner with families and schools to make a significant difference in the academic success of Vermont’s children of all socioeconomic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. No Child Left Behind stresses the importance of parent participation in their child’s education, and **PIRC-Vermont** will provide them with the information, resources, and support to help them to participate effectively and confidently.”*

For additional information on how you can access the services and support of **PIRC-Vermont**, please contact Melita DeBellis at 802-876-5135 x 28.