

## VASE Annual Report for 2021-22

This was an exciting and progressive year for VASE and its membership. The relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions set the stage for VASE to re-group and think about its vision moving forward. The Fall Annual meeting took place in-person for the first time in two years on September 22, 2021 on the Middlebury College campus. Mr. Bill McKibben was the keynote speaker who delivered a timely presentation entitled *“Where Do We Stand And Where Can We Still Go?: The Climate Crisis Deepens”* which served to motivate VASE and its constituents to act on the important science initiatives of the 21<sup>st</sup> century (including but not limited to climate change). McKibben’s call to action resonated with the VASE membership, serving to re-energize the Board and its desire to have a broader impact throughout the State of VT. At the dinner that followed McKibben’s keynote address, five new members were inducted into the Academy, including Beth Kirkpatrick (Professor and Chair, UVM Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics; Leslie Parise (Dean, UVM College of Agriculture and Life Sciences); Mary Cushman, (UVM Professor of Medicine and Pathology); Mark Levine (Commissioner of the VT Department of Health), and Guiseppe Petrucci (UVM Professor of Analytical Chemistry). VASE also honored Mr. Derek Burkins of the Thetford Academy as the 2021 recipient of VASE’s Outstanding Science Teacher of the Year award.

In October 2021 the VASE Board met to discuss future directions for VASE with a focus on our small yet ambitious state and what else beyond its successful grants programs VASE could do to have a bigger and broader impact throughout Vermont. To this end, the Board considered how to better engage its membership, and how to best inform our legislators, whether VASE should engage issues surrounding truth in science, the vaccine debate, climate change, and more. The Board also discussed VASE’s role in promoting work force development and job creation throughout the state. The Board decided to bring the general membership into these important conversations, and so a meeting of the VASE membership was held via Zoom on February 16, 2022 to brainstorm future directions for the Academy. The membership was excited to engage these questions and suggested that VASE partner with regional museums (eg. Montshire and ECHO) and the New Hampshire Academy of Science (and perhaps the New York Academy of Science). The membership also encouraged VASE’s continued alignment with FIRST Robotics while fostering parallel relationships with UVM extension’s Teen Science Café (to involve youngsters in grades 7-12), After School, Inc. (grades K-12) and the American Heart Association (to more fully engage under-represented groups- including young girls - in science). It was also suggested that VASE partner with Algae Power to promote clean energy in VT. The Board agreed it would be best to focus on a few of these action items, which included an onsite visit to the New Hampshire Academy of Science in May 2022 and a focus on fundraising to broaden VASE’s grant programs and foster more of these and other initiatives.

The response to VASE’s fall 2021 grant announcement was positive with a total of 14 competitive Small Equipment and HOST grant applications received. Among these applications, VASE was able to support all but one of them, with an award maximum of \$1000 per proposal. The 13 proposals that were ultimately funded totaled \$11,964.68 in support. Among the 14 proposals received, 3 were Small Equipment and 11 were HOST grants. A total of \$2964.68 was awarded

to the Small Equipment grant initiative (see list of Small Equipment grant awardees attached) and \$9000.00 was awarded to the HOST funding mechanism (see list of HOST grant awardees attached). A donor who wishes to remain anonymous contributed \$5000.00 to the VASE HOST grant program for 2022-23. The Board will engage in fundraising efforts to match this \$5K. To this end and in lieu of launching a spring 2022 grant cycle, VASE focused its attention on securing additional funds from the Vermont Technical Council (VTC) to enable a more robust grants program in 2022-23 and beyond.

The Board met with David Bradbury, President of the VTC via Zoom during the summer of 2022 to discuss VASE's revitalized mission and to request a 3-year financial commitment to help VASE establish an infrastructure that can reinforce its grants programs and foster its broad impact goals moving forward. The VTC agreed to commit the first of three annual \$30K installments to the VASE organization, totaling \$90K over the next 3 years. The addition of these monies to VASE's budget led to the successful contracting of VASE's first consulting assistance through Ms. Mary Braun whose expertise and contributions to VASE's new vision can help us realize our goals and have a broader impact statewide.

Respectfully submitted,

*Grace Spatafora*

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President, Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering

HOST Grant Awardees

Bennington Area Makers, Bennington  
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Central Vermont Innovators, East Montpelier  
Hazen Union High School, Hardwick  
Manchester Machine Makers Manchester  
NEK Robotics, Morgan  
Middlebury Community Television,  
Middlebury  
Rutland Area Robotics, Rutland  
Spaulding, Barre  
River Valley Technical Center and Riverside  
Middle School, Springfield

Small Equipment Grant Awardees

Academy School, Brattleboro  
Manchester Elementary & Middle  
School, Manchester Center  
Rutland Town School, Rutland Town

**Vermont Academy of Science & Engineering budget for year 7/1/21 – 6/30/22**

	<b>2021-2022 Budget</b>	<b>2021-2022 Actual</b>
Fiscal year begins July 1, 2021		
Beginning Balance		\$6,982
<b>INCOME</b>		
VT Technology Council	\$18,000	\$18,000
Contributions from members	\$1,500	\$ 660
Donation to HOST grant program	\$10,000	\$10,000
Donation from single member	\$0	\$ 5,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$29,500</b>	<b>\$33,660</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
<b>Fall meeting/Public Forum</b>		
Travel & lodging for speaker	\$700	\$0
Honorarium for speaker	\$500	\$0
Catering	\$2,500	\$2,749
Conference and Events charge	\$200	\$0
New member certificates & frames	\$100	\$172
<b>Science Teacher of the Year Award</b>		
\$1000 each	\$1,000	\$1,000
Engraved plaques	\$200	\$294
<b>Small Equipment Grants to K-12 Teachers</b>		
10 total awards	\$12,000	\$2,965
<b>Hands on Science &amp; Technology (HOST) Grant Awards</b>		
10 Total HOST Awards	\$10,000	\$9,000
<b>Administrative Support</b>		
	-	-
<b>VT STEM Fair Award</b>		
cancelled due to COVID	\$100	\$0
<b>Spring meeting at Statehouse</b>		
cancelled due to COVID	\$700	\$0
<b>Website Maintenance</b>		
	\$132	\$0
<b>Miscellaneous expenses</b>		
(postage, tax filing.)	\$200	\$169
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$29,162</b>	<b>\$16,349</b>
BALANCE, fiscal year end	\$338	\$24,293.