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91 Influencers of 2026: A Recognition of Excellence



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91 Influencers: A Recognition of Excellence

It is with excitement and great pride that we celebrate the remarkable achievements of all the individuals featured in this special VermontBiz annoucement.

They are being recognized by VermontBiz as 91 Influencers. This prestigious honor highlights their unwavering dedication, innovation, and impact within their field and community, as well as their ability to inspire and lead those around them.

The name 91 Influencers was inspired by the date that Vermont became the 14th state, March 4, 1791. Providing us the perfect inspiration to use 91 as a significant number. Close to 100 but unique to our state. We believe that number of honorees was fitting considering we are a state with just over 645,000 residents but with so many influential people in Vermont. We asked our readers to nominate someone they knew who they felt was an influential person in business in Vermont. We gave them several categories to choose from, health care, business services, financial and non profits to name a few. The editorial staff then spent countless hours picking the top 91 Influencers for 2026.

Being chosen as a VermontBiz 91 Influencer signifies more than just professional achievement, it represents a deeper commitment to excellence, community, and positive change. Their work has not only resonated within their industry but has also contributed to shaping Vermont's business

landscape in meaningful and lasting ways. This accolade reflects their hard work, vision, and the respect they've earned from peers and colleagues alike.

As a VermontBiz 91 Influencer, they join an elite group of individuals who are driving progress, fostering collaboration, and championing the values that make Vermont a hub of innovation and leadership. Their contributions serve as an inspiration to others, encouraging them to strive for greatness and to believe in the transformative power of dedication and creativity.

In the following pages, VermontBiz highlights all the 91 influencers. We asked each honoree to fill out a questionnaire with a bio and to answer a few questions so our readers have a better feel for who they are. I think you will find these writeups very interesting and informative.

I also want to thank Community Bank for becoming the presenting sponsor!

Katie Kittell,

Publisher & Art Director

VermontBiz

Congratulations 91 Influencers:

Being named one of VermontBiz's 91 Influencers was a surprise, and I'm truly honored by the recognition. What means even more to me, though, is being included alongside such an impressive group of people.

Congratulations to all of this year's honorees. This recognition reflects the dedication, creativity, and impact each person has made in their field and in their community. Vermont is lucky to have so many leaders who inspire others through their work, their values, and their commitment to making a difference.

One of the things I've always valued about doing business in Vermont is how personal leadership feels here. People know each other.

Relationships matter. Success isn't just about what an organization achieves it's also about how it shows up for the communities it serves.

That perspective has really shaped the way I think about banking and financial services.

committed to making a difference every day.

Best advice for your younger self: Take good care of yourself so you have the strength, energy, and perspective to care for others.

Favorite thing about Vermont: The natural beauty all around usthe mountains, lakes, and changing seasons. We are so fortunate to live here.

Something interesting about you that isn't on your resume: My granddaughters keep me young and inspired through crafts, cooking, and everyday adventures.

Al Getler

Senior Vice President,, **Community Heart** & Soul

Alma Mater

William Paterson University

Al Getler joined **Community Heart** & Soul after a career in media, where he published award-winning websites, newspapers, and magazines. He also led a non-profit organization for a theater restoration project and serves on several boards. He is a former VT volunteer firefighter and EMT in South Hero, VT where he also organizes the 4th of July parade each year. He is inspired by his parents' commitment to community service. In addition, Al is a professional comedian and ventriloquist appearing all over the US and here in Vermont. He is a board of advisor member and the Executive Director of the Vent Haven International Ventriloquist ConVENTion which has taken place for over 50 years.

Favorite thing about Vermont: Coming home, sitting in my backyard around the campfire with friends, cigars and bourbon and looking to the east over Lake Champlain to see majestic clouds and the Green Mountains.

Something interesting about you that isn't on your resume: The Editor of the New Yorker, David Remnick, cast me in my first high school talent show. I was the only comedy act in the middle of musical acts and I killed. David was an upperclassman to my being a freshman.

Michael Monte

CEO, Champlain Housing Trust

Alma Mater