

PETER SHUMLIN
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

January 1, 2012

Dear Principal,

I am writing to ask for your help. On April 9th, I am inviting student representatives from every high school in Vermont to the State House for the launch of the Vermont Global Issues Network. Historic problems call for historic responses; the world is currently faced with many pressing global issues and it is important that Vermont youth are aware of the issues facing the planet and how they are manifested in Vermont. It is the mission of the Vermont Global Issues Network to raise awareness among youth of these pressing problems and to empower young people to make a difference by developing and implementing sustainable solutions for global issues locally and regionally.

An exciting day is planned with an inspiring keynote speaker, youth speakers and a range of workshops on a wide variety of topics from climate change to immigration. At the end of the day, I believe students will be inspired to work with their teachers to learn more about the topics presented and to act locally on a chosen issue.

I need your help in two ways. The first is identifying a teacher from your school who would be interested in this effort. It needs to be a teacher who is willing to not only attend the event but who is also willing and able to incorporate a global issues component into their curriculum during the 2012 -2013 school year. This can be a unit of study or an elective course. It does not necessarily need to be a social studies teacher but could be from another curriculum area which lends itself to the study of current global issues. It should also be a teacher who is willing to incorporate a service-learning component into their work and who will support the students to take action locally on an issue of their choice.

Second, I need your help identifying up to four students from grades 7-10 to attend the event. In choosing students I would encourage you to think of students who are interested in making a difference in their local communities.

A website has been developed with initial information and registration information: www.VTGIN.org. We hope that the site will grow to be a place for students to share the impact of the event and the results of their work.

Thank you for your help. Vermont Youth can continue to make a difference to Vermont and the planet. We believe this kick off event will provide inspiration and a network of support. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right across the page.

Peter Shumlin
Governor