

#### **Vermont Career Connect**

Wednesday, November 20th | 10:00am - 11:15am

Virtual Career Panel for 7th & 8th Graders

7th and 8th grade classes are invited to join us for a facilitated career exploration Q&A that will help students think about the future, explore new possibilities, and hear directly from speakers about their work.

Presenter **Mat Barewicz** of the *Vermont Department of Labor* will kick off the event by highlighting Vermont's high-pay, high-demand jobs. Panel Moderator **Kathi Terami** of *Careers CLiC* will close by facilitating student reflections and sharing career exploration resources.

For more information on the event and panelists, visit <a href="www.vsac.org/vermont-career-connect">www.vsac.org/vermont-career-connect</a>



**Brian Kelley**Registered Nurse
Burlington & Essex/
Westford School Systems



**SrA Alexandra Banke** *Crew Chief* Vermont Air Guard



**Tyler Bracey**Curriculum Director/
Lead Pre-School Teacher
Little Lakers Academy



Zeynep Barut
Marketing & Communications
Specialist
Vermont Federal Credit
Union

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#### **Meet the Panelists**



## **Brian Kelley**Registered Nurse Burlington & Essex/Westford School Systems

Brian has been a Registered Nurse (RN) for over 20 years. He has been very fortunate to have worked in a variety of different fields as a nurse. Some of the jobs he has held have been an operating room nurse, a public health nurse, and a psychiatric-mental health nurse. For the last seven years, he has been a school nurse in the Burlington and Essex/Westford school systems. As a school nurse he is very independent in his job, which he really enjoys, and every day is different. He never thought about being a school nurse, but another school nurse suggested he try it and it has been great because it gives him the same schedule as his two children - so when they have a school vacation he also has vacation. He's very happy he chose to be a nurse – he's proud of the work he does, and it has been a great career.



### Tyler Bracey Curriculum Director/Lead Preschool Teacher Little Lakers Academy

Tyler grew up in St Albans and attended Johnson State College right out of high school. After a year of studying Art Therapy, he decided he would take a break from school to join the workforce. This is when Covid-19 started and lots of businesses were in desperate need of help. He was referred to a childcare center in Colchesser by a family friend, and soon discovered his passion for teaching littles. After just a few months he knew that this was his calling. He rejoined school at the Community College of Vermont, where he completed his early childhood education certificate, and is in his final class to complete his associates degree. Since becoming certified and gaining 3 years of experience in the field, Tyler is now the lead preschool teacher and curriculum director at Little Lakers Academy. Tyler is continuing his education and certifications to gain more experience and knowledge for his teaching journey. Outside of caring for growing preschoolers, Tyler enjoys painting, drawing, getting outdoors, and watching a good movie.



# SrA Alexandra Banke Crew Chief Vermont Air Guard

Alexandra grew up in Vermont, attending Rice Memorial High School and The Vermont Academy of Science and Technology before beginning a BA in Economics. During this time, Covid-19 struck and she began looking for ways to fulfill her dream of becoming a military pilot. Due to her great interest in aviation and a knack for mechanics, she enlisted into the Vermont Air National Guard, where she became a full time aircraft mechanic working on the F-35 Lightning II airframe. Alexandra has been working in her role as a crew chief for over two years and is developing her skills as a mechanic and as a teacher to the newest airmen, aiming to share her passion for aviation with every new student. In her off time, Alexandra enjoys flying single engine propeller planes, riding horses, and practicing iiu jitsu.



### **Zeynep Barut**Marketing & Communications Specialist Vermont Federal Credit Union

Zeynep grew up in Vermont, attending Burlington High School (BHS) before heading to the University of Vermont, where she earned a degree in Marketing Business. After graduation, she started her career as an Administrative Assistant at Vermont Federal Credit Union. During this time, Zeynep became dedicated to personal growth, diving into courses and earning certifications in Digital Marketing, and Content Creation. These experiences not only sharpened her skills but also fueled her excitement for the world of marketing. She is now the Marketing and Communication Specialist at Vermont Federal Credit Union—her dream role. Today, Zeynep enjoys the blend of creativity and strategy her position offers, helping the credit union connect with its members in meaningful ways.