

Opportunities Credit Union Sponsors, “The Entrepreneurial Spirit” in Winooski

On March 23, 2011 Opportunities Credit Union sponsored a Burlington Young Professionals seminar in Winooski focused on “The Entrepreneurial Spirit”. The event was graciously hosted at the Block Gallery and Coffeehouse from 5:30-7:30

(<http://www.blockgalleryvt.com/Welcome.html>)

“The Entrepreneurial Spirit” was an open discussion for those interested in starting or expanding a business. *“These are the conversations that help strengthen our community and drive the economy forward,”* said Greg Huysman. Greg is Opportunities’ Small Business Lending Manager and led the discussion for the evening. Joining Greg were business owners who have worked with Opportunities - Abbey Duke of Sugarsnap and Jeff Weaber of Aqua Vitae. Abbey and Jeff shared their experiences of opening and growing their businesses. Stephen Densham of the Vermont Small Business Development Center (<http://www.vtsbdc.org/>) also covered the keys to developing a successful plan, and utilizing the resources available in Vermont.

When asked to summarize the event, attendee Elizabeth Stillwell stated *“I was surprised to learn about all of the great resources available in our community to help individuals start their own business. It was interesting to see how both Opportunities Credit Union and the SBDC fit into the larger picture to not only help local businesses only start up, but also continue to flourish and grow.”*

The event also collected canned food donations for the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf.

Opportunities Credit Union recently opened a branch and office in Winooski and is happy to support the Burlington Young Professionals as they wrap up their first year of their seminar series. Visit the Burlington Young Professionals at www.btvypg.com.

If you have an interest in organizing an event for current or future business owners, please contact Greg Huysman! 802-654-4540 (extension 113) or email ghuysman@oppsvt.org



Jeff Weaber (Aqua Vitae), Greg Huysman (OCU), Abbey Duke (Sugar Snap), Steve Densham (SBDC)



Greg Huysman describes the unique challenges businesses face in today's economy



Steve Densham explains what it takes to 'plan to succeed'