Dear Friends,

At my age, I consider the concept of time more frequently. For example, take twenty years: 20 still seemed a long way off - and old – in my youth. Now, I ask myself how the first 20 years of this 21st century slipped by so quickly. The Tewksbury’s founded Global Campuses Foundation in 2001. The following year, the first campus was birthed in Chiang Mai, Thailand, followed by the first three U.S. campuses in Vermont in 2003. This year, we are celebrating the 20th year of our founding, and for the next two years, we will continue to celebrate 20-year anniversaries. That's a long time to be around for a concept that did not exist before our founders conceived the idea of providing participant-led and participant-centered advanced learning opportunities for adults who experience disabilities.

Our educational construct diverges from the traditional model where educators are the gatekeepers of the knowledge they pass onto their students. Our model and approach feature "participants-as-teachers." They create and produce their curriculum, engaging as student scholars, teaching faculty, and administrators. Honoring their voice is paramount in every aspect of the Global Campus (GC) experience. It is even more critical considering how six million people with developmental disabilities in the U.S. are commonly disempowered, marginalized, and excluded from discussions and decisions that have a tremendous impact – often negatively – on their lives.

GC Academic Coordinators facilitate educational programming and community service projects that are conceived and led by participants. They are empowered and honored. Step outside the virtual doors of Global Campuses, and this reality too often does not exist. What we achieved in this our 20th year is a testament to the enduring spirit of GC participants to pursue lifelong learning as a noble goal and serve humanity as givers through service to our mission, and most importantly, to those in need in our communities. For the most part, what you read here radiates from the wellspring of GC participant inspiration, passion, positivity, joy, confidence, creativity, sharing, and more. They infuse their energy into every aspect of the organization, resulting in "we-are-all-in-this-together" energy.

Suppose you have been moved in some way through attending a campus, collaborating with a participant, or receiving community service. In that case, I encourage you to send us a message to let us know how it affected you. If you have or currently support our work financially or in other ways, thank you so much! We could not do this without you. For those of you new to GC -- or newly inspired! -- please read on to learn more. I know your heart will be warmed, as mine is daily. However you connect to this beautiful community, we will be forever grateful.

Here’s to another 20 years and beyond!

Steve Tavella, Executive Director
We believe:
Education has the power to uplift, dignify, and ennoble lives. We honor the value of all persons to pursue education, facilitating personal empowerment through life-long learning. Collaboration is the key strategy of all our activities, mission, and vision, honoring the voice and full participation of campus participants as creators and producers of their own educational experiences. This is done by participating with and supporting adults with disabilities to enhance their quality of life as they create, manage, and sustain campuses of advanced learning.

“During COVID, Global Campuses helped me to keep believing in myself.”
Participant, Springfield, VT

How do participants benefit from the Global Campus experience?
People with disabilities often face prejudice and isolation, which can threaten wellness, social integration, self-esteem, and economic independence. We honor this traditionally disenfranchised population and provide the opportunity to fully develop their educational experiences, which often leads to personal life enhancement.

“An elder once told me, if you don’t share what you know, it will die with you.”
Justin Thunderbear, Abenaki Asst. Chief, GC Board Member, and St. Johnsbury participant

Certificate Day: Participants are traditionally honored at the end of each semester for their involvement as students, teachers, and/or administrators of their campuses.

2021 Academic Theme, Making History: Every year, all participants collaboratively generate an academic theme to study and then integrate into their personal course offerings. Here, GC Randolph tours the VT History Museum.

Campus-to-Campus Connections: This annual event, held in June, brings together all 12 VT & NH campuses to celebrate the end of each academic year. These past two years, due to COVID, the event was held virtually.

Participants are the creators, producers, and stewards of their Global Campus. When asked, “Whose campus is it?” they respond, “It’s our campus!”
During the spring 2021 academic semester, participants experienced improvements in one or more aspects of personal development:

- 84% Enhanced public speaking skills
- 83% Improved self-confidence
- 78% Increase in topical knowledge
- 65% Developed organizational skills
- 62% Developed new relationships
- 66% Increased opportunities for community inclusion

View a short three-minute video here: https://www.globalcampuses.org/northeast-usa-campuses

Community Service Examples

- Knitting group distributed 145 hats, scarves, potholders, and lap blankets to food banks, shelters, and nursing homes.
- 5 knitted blankets for animals at Morrisville animal shelter.
- Community gardens in Hardwick and Lamoille. Over 75 lbs of produce distributed to food pantries.
- Creation of VT/NH Jeopardy game for Special Educ. Departments at public schools.

Community Survey Results:

Community members who interacted or received volunteer services from a Global Campus participant

- Experience rated 4.75 out of 5 stars
- 33% developed a new friend or colleague
- 33% developed new positive perspectives

Number of classes researched and taught by Global Campus participants at 12 community campuses: 190

Amount raised by participants who participated in the Flutie 5K for Autism: $3,200

9 classes co-taught between participants and community members reaching 79 persons

17 Number of community members who gave educational presentations

11 Number of campuses benefited

31 # of community service projects by participants

971 # of community members benefited

Over 240 Hours of volunteer time given to VT/NH communities
COVID:
- Uninterrupted delivery of classes at all 12 Vermont and New Hampshire campuses
- Resumption of in-person classes in collaboration with our agency partners

Board-approved comprehensive three-year Strategic Plan with four areas of strategic focus, including fund development, board capacity and diversity, strengthening and expanding our unique educational approach, and marketing.

New website (www.globalcampuses.org) thanks to generous funding from The Oakland Foundation and individuals. The site is more accessible, current, and contemporary.

Establishment of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee composed of participants, staff, and board members. The DEI statement can be viewed at www.globalcampuses.org.

Completion of an organization-wide Cultural Competency Assessment.


The Board of Directors unanimously approved the intention of the New England, USA Global Campuses to transition to its own educational entity as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

The formation of a Task Force of all stakeholders, with an emphasis on the voices of campus participants, successfully generated a contemporary name and logo for the Vermont and New Hampshire campus operations. The new name will be **Peer Teaching and Learning**. The founding vision, values, philosophy, and participant-centered approach of the Global Campus Academic Model will continue.

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Global Campuses Timeline: 2001 – 2021
**Feature: Grace’s Cooking Class at GC Moretown**

Inspired by Gordon Ramsey, Grace kicked off the fall semester at Global Campus Moretown with an interactive co-taught cooking class with Chris. Grace researched and presented her favorite T.V. chef to her peers and agency support staff while preparing one of Ramsey’s famous Asian-inspired recipes, Rice Noodle Chicken. Participants learned many tips and tricks from Grace and Chris and by watching clips of Ramsey also preparing the dish and finishing it off with a twist of lime!

**Feature: Charlie at GC Hardwick**

With the academic theme of *Making History* for the 2021/22 academic year, Charlie shared some of his personal history for his class. He used a unique technique to do so. He has kept a collection of valuables over the years, including cards, notes, postcards, and even Global Campus certificates. With all these items, he decided to make a collage highlighting different people and events in his life. During the class, he focused on a couple of items that had deep meaning to him, such as birthday cards and especially a card comforting him for the loss of his mother. These items sparked questions, conversations, and stories.

**Feature: Lauren and Her Horse Floyd – Lessons on Care and Riding at GC Lamoille**

Fall semester classes started at Lamoille with a trip to Hope Grows Farm, where GC participant Lauren keeps her horse, Floyd. Lauren shared how to groom and prepare Floyd to ride, the tack used for riding, and how it is put on. Once he was ready to ride, Lauren demonstrated her riding skills, showing participants how she gets him to walk, trot, and go around cones and over rails on the ground. Following her demonstration, the Lamoille campus participants toured the farm and met other horses, donkeys, and a miniature pony.

“I want to thank you for your encouraging, gentle introduction to Global Campuses as an element in our lives. GC and its teachers are, I now realize, doing essential, life-saving work – not exactly front liners, but supporting people still alive and struggling, to help them make sense of their lives. This makes your work, however quiet, very important work.”

Sue (parent of GC participant)

“I found a love of teaching.”

Hudson, GC Springfield participant
Feature: The Online Knitting Group

The Online Knitting Group was formed during the early months of COVID when participants considered how they could provide community service during lockdown. Zoom video meetings enabled participants to plan what they would knit and decide where to distribute their items. The group continues to knit and distribute items in their local communities.

To date, 145 hats, scarves, lap blankets, and potholders have been given to homeless shelters, nursing homes, and food banks. The group also knitted five blankets that were donated to the Morrisville Animal Shelter.

Feature: Garden Projects at GC Hardwick and Lamoille

This past summer, thanks to funding from the Vermont Community Foundation and the Oakland Foundation, the Hardwick and Lamoille campuses embarked on an incredible journey of service and learning. Participants joined their community gardens to donate fresh produce to those in need. In collaboration with garden managers, participants learned how to plant, maintain, and harvest carrots, cabbage, kale, squash, pumpkins, tomatoes, peppers, radishes, and lettuce. Over 75 pounds of food were donated to the Hardwick and Morrisville Food Pantries.

Feature: Flutie 5K for Autism

Global Campuses joined the Flutie 5K as a Charity Partner for their annual fundraising event the week of September 20-24. Over several weeks, participants fundraised in creative ways, such as bake sales and donation cans at local businesses. During the weeklong charity event, participants took part in the 5K at their campus locations. Participants at the 12 campuses and the GC Academic Team raised over $3,200!

"I love doing service and meeting other people" - Ellen, GC Hardwick

Service: “We are committed to service for the benefit of others. The Global Campus Experience provides learning opportunities that expand understanding of ourselves and our relationship to others and to global society. Understanding leads to action and contribution.”

GC Legacy Writings

Twice a year – fall and spring – each campus democratically decides on and delivers a community service project in their area. By volunteering, participants make their voices heard and their impact felt, raising awareness about disability issues such as economic challenges unique to their status. Participants are visible as teachers, learners, and active community members, prompting a shift from preconceived perceptions of persons with disability as lesser than, unable, and as takers rather than givers.
The United Nations currently estimates there are 1 billion people with disabilities worldwide. Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) states those with disabilities have a right to education in an “inclusive education system” with “life long learning.”


Paul Betz, Global Campus Champlain Valley, Colchester VT

An Interview with Paul (by Pam Fitzgerald, Curriculum Specialist & Academic Coordinator Champlain Valley)

Pam: When did you join Global Campuses?
Paul: In 2019 when our Global Campus was started.

Pam: Why?
Paul: Because I had free time, and I thought it was interesting.

“I am teaching a lot of classes about subjects that I love, and it has helped me become better at public speaking.”

Pam: How did you find out about Global Campuses?
Paul: It was announced at our self-advocates meeting that Global Campus was coming to do a presentation.

Pam: What impact has GC had on your life?
Paul: I am teaching a lot of classes about subjects that I love, and it has helped me become better at public speaking. I was worried at first that people would have trouble understanding me because of the way I talk or my speech pattern, but when we are in person, people are better able to understand me. Being on Zoom has been challenging in more ways than one but being understood is very challenging sometimes on Zoom.

Pam: What are your hobbies?
Paul: Photography, video games, and movies. (Additional note: Paul's photograph of the stained-glass window at the Fletcher Free Library (see photo, above) was featured in the Inclusive Arts Vermont art exhibition that toured the state in 2020/2021)

Pam: What have you taught, and why?
Paul: I taught several classes on photography, one about video games, and a recent class about a virtual walk in a special space near my home, which is featured in some of my photographs. I can teach classes about pretty much anything that interests me.

Pam: What do you like best about GC?
Paul: One of the best parts of Global Campus is the people and the environment and the classes taught by other participants.
Before I joined Global Campus Chiang Mai (GCC), my life was ordinary until I was in an accident. It is hard to accept a disability when it comes quickly. My parents were my support behind the scene, encouraging me to do anything. For a long time, I did not want to go out. Then, I was invited to a two-day GCC seminar about youth leadership. At that moment, I was afraid to stay overnight at a different place. My family was worried too. I thought it looked scary, but I went and learned that it was okay. I liked it and I was happy. I was very quiet. Now that I have spent more time with my GCC friends, I have learned how to speak up and join in. I have had a chance to help many people with varying disabilities. When GCC has the mission to do any activity, I am willing to do everything that is requested of me. For sure, sometimes I feel tired because it is hard work, but soon after, I feel okay because it is our mission, and we work as a family, like brother and sister, so we all feel happy. I now have known my brothers and sisters for more than 10 years, so that makes our relationships strong. When we participate together, we joke and also work hard. I like to observe the happiness of everyone.

“My message to others is, don’t give up. Try to do anything. Try to learn more things in order to know other things. You can do anything.”

After joining GCC, my life has changed because I feel that my life has meaning and value. I can learn to develop myself, and I help others who have a disability, and I feel good about that. I now have a salary and feel proud because I can take care of my family, which is important not to be a burden. I work with my community to make home visits to the elderly and serious cases such as someone with bedsores. I help the community with events such as funerals and taking care of the temple. My message to others is, don’t give up. Try to do anything. Try to learn more things in order to know other things. You can do anything. I am very happy to prove that anyone can take care of themselves and not be a burden. To develop and get a job and value yourself and help others is very important. Finally, I understand this very much because I experienced this myself. If we can pass through it, that is the key. Before, I did not want to go out, and I worried about how people looked at me. Right now, I don’t feel ashamed about my ability. I feel comfortable and free. That is why Global Campus is important for us to teach and learn.

Interviewer and Translator, K. Yutthaphon (Non), Director of GCC
Author, K. Thirapohong (Kaeng), GCC Office Manager

About Global Campus Chiang Mai Thailand: GCC began as a gathering of adults with disabilities who shared everyday needs, challenges, hopes, and dreams. Led entirely by people with physical disabilities, they serve as administrators, faculty, students, and field outreach staff. Since its inception in 2002, educational programs, fieldwork, and community outreach have significantly evolved.
Revenue
Total Revenue: $401,902

Expenses
Total Expenses: $430,311

Like many other organizations and businesses in 2021, this past year has been like no other due to the COVID pandemic. Global Campuses received a $56,000 Paycheck Protection Program loan through the Federal Cares Act, and that amount is reflected as a liability on our FY’21 year-end financial statement. In September, the Small Business Administration processed our forgiveness application, converting the loan to a grant that does not need to be repaid. This will now be reflected as revenue rather than a liability. Applied to FY’21, Global Campuses would have ended the fiscal year with a surplus of $28,401.

Board of Directors  (* Denotes participant)
Hannah Forbes, President
Justin Thunderbear, Vice President *
Danielle Webber, Treasurer
Paul Dragon, Secretary
Erik Johnson *
Melissa Valcourt
Elizabeth (Liz) Winchell
Richard Forbes (Emeritus)
James (Jamie) Gage (Emeritus)
James Tewksbury (Emeritus)
Sheryl Tewksbury (Emeritus)

Details: https://www.globalcampuses.org/board-members

Staff (The Team)
35 years of combined Global Campus experience

Steve Tavella, Executive Director
Patti Gannon, Associate Director
Pam Fitzgerald, Curriculum Specialist/Academic Coordinator (Colchester & Lamoille)
Jared Coolum, Academic Coordinator (Barre, Hardwick, Newport)
Lacy Gross, Academic Coordinator (Brattleboro, Moretown, Randolph, Springfield)
Gianessa Pirro, Academic Coordinator (Bradford, St. Johnsbury, West Lebanon, NH)

Details: https://www.globalcampuses.org/staff-members
**Agency Partners**
Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL)
Champlain Community Services
Families First
Lamoille County Mental Health Services
Lincoln Street Inc.
Northeast Kingdom Human Services
Upper Valley Services
Washington County Mental Health Services

**Special Needs Alliance Partners**
Global Campuses belongs to the Special Needs Alliance of the Upper Valley, providing specialized services and support for persons with disabilities
High Horses
Spark! Community Center
Special Needs Support Center
Visions for Creative Housing Solutions
Zack’s Place

**Supporters - 2021**

And to our many individual donors who continue to provide financial support

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