

**May 19, 2015**—A seed for the Vermont Community Preschool Collaborative (VCPC) was planted several years before its 2005 startup when Permanent Fund President, Rick Davis, met Mark Sustic, an early educator working in Franklin County. Sustic was part of an effort initiated by a group of public school, child care, state government, legislative and health care leaders to ensure that all children had access to high quality early learning and development opportunities. Realizing the potential to replicate this model around the state, the Permanent Fund began to garner support for its long-term goal to achieve universal access to high quality pre-kindergarten for all of Vermont's 3- and 4-year-olds. Ten years later, the Vermont Legislature enacted Act 166, providing a sustainable source of funding for universal Pre-K. Arriving at this milestone required great effort on the parts of many stakeholders. None were more determined in pursuing their vision than the collection of partners who made the Vermont Community Preschool Collaborative happen and kept it going for a decade.

When VCPC launched in 2005, the total enrollment in Vermont for pre-kindergarten and pre-k special education was 2,500 children. By targeting grants and technical assistance for shared pre-k services to local school districts and community child care providers, the VCPC directly helped to increase publicly funded preschool enrollment by over 1800 children. By the close of the 2013 school year, 5,700 children were enrolled in high quality pre-k programs around the state.

How this came about, the historical context, the influence and role the Vermont Community Preschool Collaborative played to help build a universal pre-k system in Vermont that offers equal access to high quality programs throughout the state, lessons learned and recommendations for next steps are the focus of this report: [10 Years of VCPC Final March 2015](#).