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## **BSD Afterschool Students Complete Successful Pilot Program with UVM**

15 Students to be Recognized for Completing “BHS-UVM Collaborative Literacy Initiative”

**Burlington, VT** For the past semester, students in Burlington School District’s (BSD) Afterschool program have been participating in a pilot program with the University of Vermont’s Education for Cultural and Linguistic (ECLD) Literacy program. About a dozen students have participated in the “BHS-UVM Collaborative Literacy Initiative” which pairs UVM Literacy students with some of the highest-need English Learners (EL) at Burlington High School (BHS). Those students and their peer-tutors from UVM will participate in an End of the Year Celebration on May 8<sup>th</sup> at UVM to celebrate what the District’s Director of Expanded Learning Opportunities Christy Gallese calls a “resounding success.”

***For the celebration, students will take a field trip to UVM where they will connect with their peer-tutors and receive certificates for successful completion of the program. Students and their partners will also participate in a StoryCorp-like activity where they will interview each other about their experiences.***

Gallese credits the success of the program to BHS Afterschool Site Director, Sheryl Haiduck, and UVM’s Coordinator of the ECLD Minor, Cynthia Reyes. “These are two people who are absolutely dedicated to the continued support of EL students. When Sheryl learned that Cynthia was looking to work with Burlington School District, she jumped at the opportunity to work collaboratively.”

Haiduck said that in addition to a measurable increase in language skills, the partnership has produced other successful outcomes such as increased confidence for students on both sides. “One of our BHS students has really opened up and started making more friends, and one of the UVM students has decided to focus their school-work and professional goals on working more closely with English Learners because of the experience.”

“Afterschool is the perfect avenue to create partnerships like these,” said Gallese. “We have the time and space to have these conversations and the flexibility to offer different types of curriculum and learning experiences.”

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Burlington School District (BSD) is a pre-k-12 public school system of about 4,000 students in Burlington, VT. BSD’s mission is to graduate students who: value different cultures, engage with the community, communicate effectively, think creatively, skillfully solve problems, and achieve at their highest academic, intellectual, and personal potential.