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—Dateline..... Brattleboro  
—Article Number:..... 43137



**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Vermont Adult Learning expands Driver Education  
2 access to New Vermonters

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4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) is helping more  
6 Vermonters gain safe, legal access to the road through a growing  
7 partnership with the Vermont State Highway Safety Office's  
8 Enhanced Driver Safety Program, in collaboration with the  
9 Windham County Sheriff's Office.  
10 VAL instructors have been working closely with Sgt.  
11 Chris Norton, Windham County Highway Safety Coordinator

12 with the Vermont State Highway Safety Office’s behavioral  
13 change unit, and Michael Roj to deliver adult driver education  
14 using state-of-the-art driving simulators installed at VAL’s  
15 Windham County Learning Center at 113 Technology Drive in  
16 Brattleboro.

17 The program serves Vermonters 18 years and older and is  
18 uniquely designed to support multilingual learners. By integrating  
19 driver education with English Language Learning (ELL),  
20 participants build both driving knowledge and the language skills  
21 needed to understand road signs, motor vehicle laws, and  
22 highway safety expectations — all key components for success  
23 on the learner’s permit and road tests.

24 “This course removes barriers,” said Roj. “It supports  
25 safer drivers and safer roads while helping people gain  
26 independence.” Roj also noted that he is looking forward to  
27 expanding this same model statewide.

28 The curriculum and instructional approach were  
29 developed collaboratively by VAL instructors working alongside  
30 Norton and Roj. Instructional materials were adapted specifically  
31 for ELL students to ensure clarity, accessibility, and meaningful  
32 engagement.

33 Early outcomes show strong student participation and  
34 steady progress toward behind-the-wheel training and licensure.

35 “It is going so well,” said VAL ELL instructor Gloria  
36 Cristelli. “Students are happy with what they have learned and  
37 feel confident to do the behind-the-wheel training next. What  
38 impressed me about the students was their expressions of thanks  
39 to Sergeant Norton and Instructor Roj.”

40 For more information, visit [vtadultlearning.org](http://vtadultlearning.org).

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

42      #####BEGIN MAXISSUE#####  
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LINKS:

43      #####BEGIN LINKS#####  
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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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