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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 WRCC director honored for fundraising, ‘unwavering
2 support’ of staff and students

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3 ‘Anything we can do to help kids access career and
4 technical education is an amazing gift,’ says Nancy Wiese

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5 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

6 Windham Regional Career Center (WRCC) Director
7 Nancy Wiese has been named Vermont’s Career Tech Center
8 (CTC) Director of the Year.

9 “Over her six-year tenure, Nancy has been a
10 transformative leader — securing vital grants for program
11 equipment, providing unwavering support to students and staff,

12 and expertly navigating the challenges of the pandemic during
13 her very first year. Please join us in celebrating this well-deserved
14 honor,” reads a Career Center Facebook post announcing the
15 honor.

16 “It’s very nice to be recognized,” said Wiese, who served
17 as the Center’s special needs coordinator for a year before taking
18 on the directorship six years ago.

19 The Windham Regional Career Center is a career and
20 technical school providing a diverse selection of career
21 preparation programs for 240 mostly part-time students. They are
22 mostly high school juniors and seniors, although the Center also
23 offers an introductory program for 9th- and 10th-graders.

24 Program instructors work closely with industry
25 representatives and state-of-the-art technology. Within each
26 program, students have the chance to earn industry-recognized
27 credentials, gain personal and workplace skills and, in some
28 cases, dual-enrollment college credit. Students are also offered
29 workplace learning opportunities.

30 Career programs range from aviation to automotive and
31 culinary arts to criminal justice.

32 The Center is linked with Brattleboro Union High
33 School, but students from around the county attend classes.
34 Wiese says their attendance is reviewed as are their grades.

35 “We look at their grades, not so much to they have an ‘A’
36 or a ‘B,’ but more, ‘Do they have the credits to move to high
37 school graduation?,” says the director.

38 Attendance is checked because “so much of our learning
39 goes on almost at a job site; we have classrooms, but we also
40 have labs and shops, so a lot of the learning is experiential,” she
41 says.

42 Wiese reports to both Windham Southeast Supervisory
43 Union Superintendent Mark Speno and an advisory board.

44 “Nancy Wiese and her team have transformed the WRCC
45 into a Career Tech Center that has become a model in the state,”

46 said Speno, describing Wiese as “dedicated, hard-working, and
47 well-deserved to receive this honor and recognition.”

48 Wiese “truly puts students at the center of everything she
49 does,” says Alvarez, a CTE business/entrepreneurship/marketing
50 instructor at the Career Center who was named 2026 Vermont
51 Teacher of the Year.

52 “She is a determined advocate for CTE education and
53 understands how powerful hands-on, real-world learning can be
54 for students,” she adds. “Nancy leads by bringing energy, care for
55 all of us at the WRCC, and a genuine commitment to helping
56 young people find their path.

57 “Our school and our community is stronger because of
58 her work,” Alvarez says.

59 Wiese will receive a plaque noting her honor in August
60 at Killington Mountain Resort.

61 The best part of her job?

62 “I really enjoy the people I work with,” she says. “Both
63 the staff and and students are amazing people. We adults who
64 work at the center have the honor, the luck, of watching kids
65 really grow. We try to teach them that learning is not always
66 successful [...] and really, the learning comes from trying again.”

67 The most challenging part?

68 “Balancing all the responsibilities,” says Wiese.

69 “Like most principals, I have staff and students that are
70 my main focus, but this year, for instance, I’ve written just over
71 \$400,000 state and federal application grants and made a request
72 for additional aid from congressionally-directed federal funds for
73 \$5 million,” she says. “And we got almost \$2.5 million for all of
74 the career centers.”

75 Finding money to make a difference is a crucial part of
76 the work for Wiese.

77 “Living in a rural state is a blessing, but it’s also a curse,”
78 she said with a smile.

79 “There are big mountains between us and Bennington,
80 and rural poverty without transportation is very challenging for

81 kids and adults and can be very isolating,” Wiese says. “So
82 anything we can do to help kids access career and technical
83 education is an amazing gift.

84 “If we want to keep kids in the state of Vermont, we’ve
85 got to be sure they have the skills to work here successfully and
86 make a livable wage,” she says.

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