



Letter to Fellows

Fresh New Look

June 2024

Dear Rowland Fellows,

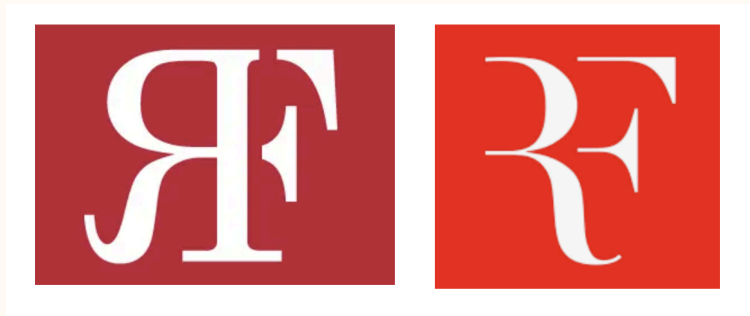
I hope your school year is coming to a happy close and that you have rewarding plans for summer.

It's my pleasure to share with you here our brand-new Rowland Foundation logo and tagline (see above). We've been working this spring with the Vermont-based marketing & design firm [Solidarity of Unbridled Labor](#) for some basic branding and additional polish for our communication materials. In addition to the new logo and tagline, they have provided us with a creative platform which includes style guidelines and color references for an official palette—some of which are on display in this month's newsletter!

The ROWLAND Foundation

The updated "wordmark" above aims to maintain our well established typeface with very subtle improvements: a combination of two reds for more warmth and energy, tighter kerning (i.e., letter spacing), and consistent punctuation. We also wanted to use a color combination that's less austere than gray, black, and maroon, and feels a little more friendly and modern.

We tried out several options for the tagline, and finally landed on: Investing in Vermont's Teachers. We hope this simple message can introduce the Foundation to the general public in a way that is comprehensible and concrete. While this language may seem a little bland at first, we decided that the idea of directly investing in teachers in the current climate remains, in fact, a radical approach.



It's with some sadness that we are retiring the RF logomark you'll recognize here on the left. Its elegant design came from Rowland Fellow Jason Finley (RF09) and has served us well for many years. The Rowland Foundation owes Jason a debt of gratitude, both for this important contribution and for being our very first Rowland blog editor before Lauren Parren (RF12). As much as we've loved Jason's design, in the end, we decided that a new logomark would be a good idea to avoid any possible trademark infringement with the Roger Federer logo (above, right).



Here's our new logomark. This version has a gradient combining dark and light red which helps convey energy or movement. This new logo design is meant to evoke the "Rowland Ripple" where good ideas ripple out from Rowland Fellowship work to influence other schools and districts around the state. You can imagine overlapping ripples across a pond. Or you can imagine radio waves emanating out from our Fellows' work and the broader Rowland Network of Fellows, waves of innovation and collaboration rippling out across our

state. This idea of the “Rowland Ripple” has been around for a while and was picked up again by Janis Boulbol (RF21), Jean Berthiaume (RFO9), and other Fellows at our last All Fellows Retreat.

Our new logo’s overlapping circles also convey the idea of connections and linking up, from cohort meetings to collaborative work groups (formerly steering committees), as well as the Annual Conference, Rowland Shared Leadership Retreats, All Fellows Retreats, Rowland Women’s Leadership Retreats, Dark Side of the Moon Leadership Retreats, and even the broader, informal Rowland network at large.

Finally, if you look closely, you can discern the letter “R” for Rowland more than once in this design. Either follow the second white line down from the top until it merges with a line coming up from the bottom, like the foot of the R, or imagine that the top two lines coming down from the top form the letter R with the second and third lines coming up from the bottom.

Above all, this new logomark conveys movement, modernity, and connection—all things we value.

We are excited to begin using this fresh new look for the Rowland Foundation. In the next months you’ll begin to see these new designs in our communications documents and brochures. We’ll also use them to update our website and conference brochure. Above all, we’re thrilled to have these designs to produce some Rowland Foundation merchandise! As you can imagine, we’re looking into the possibilities for Rowland Foundation totes, water bottles, hoodies, and tee-shirts—please let me know if there are other products we should be considering. We’re planning to give away some of our new merch at the All Fellows Retreat on October 16th.



I've created this [shared folder of our new designs](#) for Rowland Fellows to use in their email footers, presentations, and press releases, as appropriate. Feel free to use them right away! I'll continue to update this folder with vector-based images and other options as we receive them from our design firm.

If you have time this summer, I'd love to hear any thoughts you have about these new designs for the Rowland Foundation. Let me know what's coming up for you! Personally, I had been so accustomed to our old logo & wordmark that it took me some time to get used to the new look, so you may want to give your eyes a little time with these changes if need be.

I hope you and your loved ones have a joyful, restful summer. Magali & I are going to see her family in France and then spend a week in Greece, a country I've never visited before. I can't wait!

Take care and see you soon,

Mike

P.S. Thanks to everyone for sending their personal, professional & family news! It's important to celebrate these big life changes, and it's helpful to use our network to share professional learning and other opportunities.

P.P.S. There's no July newsletter, so see you in August. I hope you can unplug and get outside!

P.P.S. If you try to get away from screens during the summer like me, you may want to check out this [excellent episode of The Ezra Klein show](#) which discusses the *attention economy* and "human fracking". It reminded me of the [Digital Wellness resource guide](#) created by our first-ever Rowland Encore Grant Team!

Rowland Foundation Updates

The 13th Annual Rowland Conference Democracy & School



The 13th Annual Rowland Conference will take place on Thursday, October 17, 2024 on the theme of Democracy & School with keynote speaker Jill Lepore. Dr. Lepore writes for *The New Yorker* and teaches at Harvard University. She is the author of [These Truths](#), a one-volume history of the United States that was a New York Times bestseller. You can also catch her on the Pushkin Industries podcasts [The Last Archive](#) or [Elon Musk: The Evening Rocket](#). Here are some of [Mike's favorite Jill Lepore quotes](#). Dr. Lepore also recently submitted an amicus brief to the Supreme Court, [discussed here](#).

Early Bird Closing Soon!

We already have 35 school teams pre-registered, but can still make room for a few school teams interested in saving their spot—and saving money—through our [Early Bird Conference Pre-Registration](#). Feel free to [share our flyer](#) with colleagues and have them visit our [beautiful conference page](#). Early bird will close on June 30th or when we run out of room, whichever comes first.

Fellowship Info Sessions

2025 Rowland Fellowship Applications

Do you know a teacher who would make a great Rowland Fellow? Well, as Senior Associate Jeanie Phillips says, “Summer is the time to dream!” This year, we’re encouraging prospective candidates to start work early on their fellowship applications and avoid the end of year crunch. We’ve just sent every school in Vermont this [flyer to encourage future applicants to start early](#)! Feel free to make copies and share with teachers you know!

Please tell your colleagues that our next **Fellowship Info Session with Executive Director Mike Martin** will be on June 20th at 4:00 pm. Teachers interested in applying for a 2025 Rowland Fellowship can [get the meeting invite by signing up here](#).



Scan to download application directions & forms

Application window: Nov. 1 – Dec. 31, 2024



The
ROWLAND
Foundation

Investing in
Vermont's Teachers

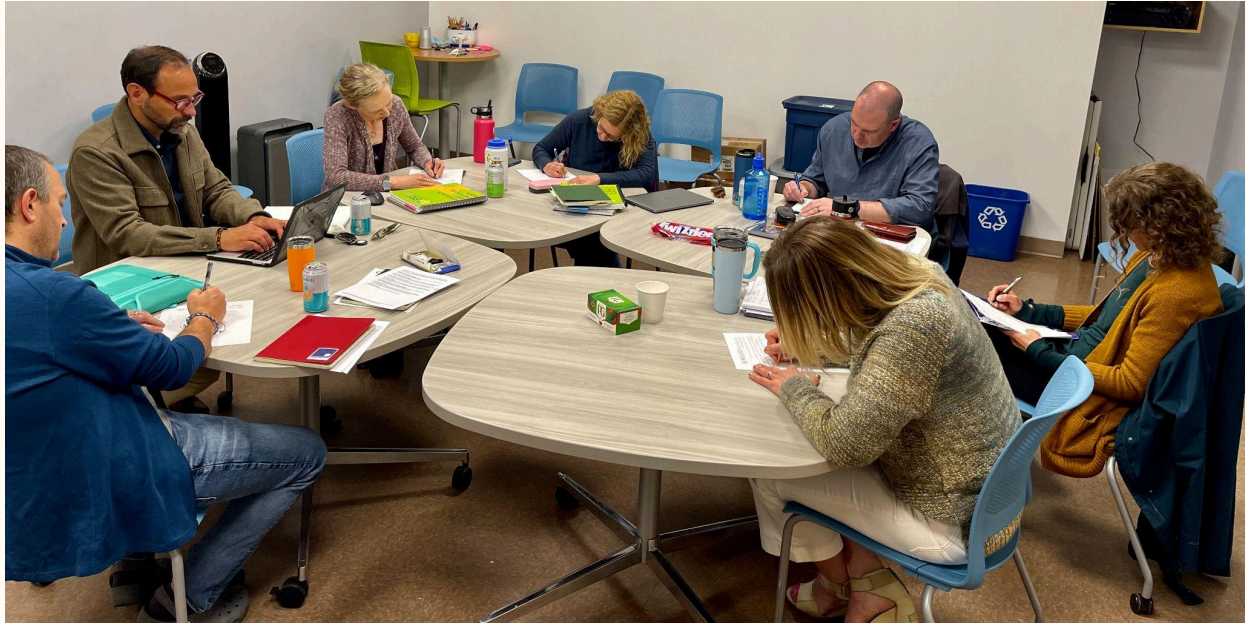
Cohort Meetings

2022 Cohort in Montpelier



The 2022 Cohort of Rowland Fellows held its last official meeting in Montpelier. While it was sad to come to the end of the two-year cycle, it was a joyful gathering, with homemade flatbread pizza and several Montpelier Rowland Fellows joining us. Seen here Tom Sabo (RF11), Emily Therrien (RF19), Lissa Knauss (RF18), Senior Associate Jeanie Phillips (RF14), Sam Bromley (RF22), Bryan Dickinson (RF22), Devon Karpak (RF22), Becky Ebel (RF22) & Executive Director Mike Martin (RF09)

2023 Cohort in Essex



The 2023 Cohort of Rowland Fellows held its last meeting of the year in Essex with Principal Donald Van Nostrand joining for lunch. Seen here (*clockwise from left*) Adam Murray, Senior Associate Jean Berthiaume (RF09), Lindsay McQueen, Elizabeth Placencia, Chris Sheehan, Jessica Kessler & Carrie Gilman.

Annual Dinner

Celebrating Our New Rowland Fellows





As always, the Annual Dinner at the Reluctant Panther was a joyful celebration of our new 2024 Cohort of Rowland Fellows, as well as the past year's work of our 2023 Cohort. With Trustees, Principals, spouses, friends, and other guests present, it was a memorable evening in honor of these amazing Vermont educators. You can see more [photos from the 2024 Annual Rowland Foundation Dinner here](#).

The Fellowship Launch

Shared Leadership with Principals



The Fellowship Launch took place at the Vermont Historical Center in Barre this year. This daylong planning session with new Rowland Fellows and their Principals always comes at a very busy time of year, but helps get key elements in place for the Fellowship to get off to a good start in the fall. Special thanks to all of our Rowland Principals who joined their new Fellows, Jean Berthiaume, Mike Martin & Abby Paige for a productive day of connection and planning: Adam Bunting (CVU), Nelson Fogg (Hartford), Jen McKlemore (Proctor), Luisa Millington (Barnet) & Chris Young (North Country). Seen here (left to right) Beverly McCarthy & Melissa Bushey, The 2024 Cohort & Mike Martin, Melissa Wyman & Nelson Fogg.

DEW Scholars

End of Year Celebration



To help diversify the educator workforce in Vermont, the Foundation is about to begin its third year of Rowland DEW Grants to support aspiring educators of color in our state. We are extremely grateful for our DEW scholars' dedication as they juggle the demands of their teacher preparation programs and their work in Vermont schools. In recognition of their important contributions, we had our first annual DEW End of Year Celebration at Oakledge Park in Burlington. Seen here (*left to right*) DEW Mentor Bonnie Johnson–Aten speaking with Lijuan Merkel, Mike Martin speaking with Jonas Kambire, and Abby Paige with Infinite Culcleasure.

Gratitude



Otter Valley Principal Michael Ruppel (RF17) and his wife Kate welcomed Meredith Belle Ruppel to the world on April 13. They are pictured at Charlestown Beach over Memorial Day weekend.



Sandra Mings Lamar (RF16) is grateful for the book, [*Sorry I'm Late; I Didn't Want to Come: One Introvert's Year of Saying Yes*](#) by Jessica Pan and the inspiration it gave her to take an Introduction to Improv class.

Being an introvert herself, Sandra decided to use the book as a guide and declare 2024 her "year of saying yes." So just like the book's author, she signed up for improv.

Finally she's grateful for the three rules of improv as she's decided they are pretty good rules for life:

- 1) Make your partners look good.
- 2) Say "yes and".
- 3) Make bold choices.

Celebrations

Diversifying the Educator Workforce



Congratulations to 2024 DEW Scholar Tessie Sakai! Tessie has been offered a teaching position at Hunt Middle School. Seen here between Senior Associate Jean Berthiaume and 2023 Rowland Fellow Lindsay McQueen, Tessie shared her ideas and experience of the Rowland DEW program with the Board of Trustees in May before joining the Annual Dinner celebration immediately following.

Food Systems Curriculum in Italy



Vermont teachers Sam Bromley (RF22), Tom Sabo (RF11), Colleen Purcell, and Brigitte Savard traveled to Italy to explore food system education in Northern Italy. The group traveled with Jen Cirillo of Shelburne Farms and Emma Boutcher of the Vermont Italian Cultural Association (VICA). The delegation spent most of their time in Colico, Italy on the northern tip of Lake Como to study how one school embeds food system education into their curriculum, and makes deep and meaningful connections to their regional agricultural traditions. The group also visited several dairy and cheese-making operations in the region, explored the region's rich history of milling grains, and spent time with students both in and

outside the classroom to understand how food systems are a part of their curriculum. To learn more, [see the VICA newsletter](#) with a related article by Jen Cirillo.

Rowland Women Leaders

Esther for Governor!



2023 DEW Scholar Esther Charlestin is running for Governor! [Check out her website](#) to learn ways you can support her campaign.

Anne for Senator!



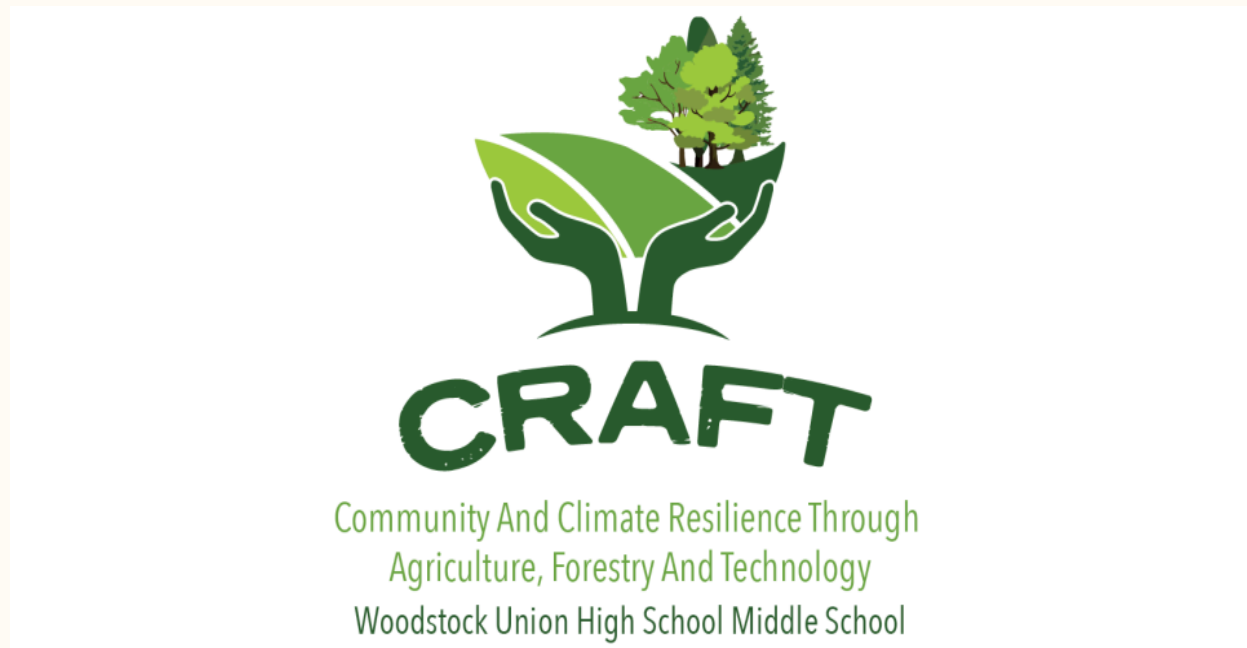
Senator, mayor, teacher, mom, and 2015 Rowland Fellow **Anne Watson** is running for State Senator! [Check out her website](#) to learn ways you can support her re-election campaign.

Marsha for Senator!



2014 Rowland Fellow **Marsha Cassel** is running for State Senator! Marsha, seen here between Tara Cariano (RF18) and Gretchen Muller (RF17), is [campaigning to represent Rutland County](#) in the Vermont State Senate.

CRAFT: New Learning Opportunities in Woodstock



The newest venture at Woodstock Union High School is the CRAFT program. CRAFT stands for Community & Climate Resilience through Agriculture, Forestry and Technology. CRAFT is finishing its second year with 40 students in the program and 12 teachers teaching interdisciplinary concepts around sustainability, stewardship, systems thinking and service learning. This is a six credit pathway focused on environmental sciences that earns you a final CRAFT credential on your highschool transcript. Learn more about how CRAFT is transforming the way students learn and take action in their community to improve our rapidly changing climate. Check out this article written by WUHS Students: [*Students Seize New Learning Opportunities Through CRAFT*](#)

Courtesy Posts

Professional Learning in Partnership



The Great Schools Partnership, The Rowland Foundation, and Shelburne Farms are pleased to sponsor two new course offerings starting this summer, both designed and instructed by Senior Associate Jeanie Phillips (RF14):

Collaborative Practices for Equity

August 21–23, September 30, and November 8, 2024 from 9am–4pm

This is a highly participatory course designed for teachers and administrators interested in developing the skills necessary for leading equity work. Participants will actively build a culture that supports collaboration and will reflect on the process of sustaining a collaborative culture in their own settings. [Please share the flyer with colleagues!](#)

[Register here!](#)

Responsive Facilitation for Systems Change

August 19–20, October 1, November 7, and December 9, 2024 from 9am–4pm

This course is designed to build on the Collaborative Practices for Equity course with school leaders in mind. Participants will practice intentional agenda design and responsive facilitation. They will build an understanding of adult learning theory, systems change models, and liberatory pedagogies. They are strongly encouraged to leverage this course for systems change in their own settings. [Please share the flyer with colleagues!](#)

[Register here!](#)

Confronting White Nationalism in Schools

Frequent Rowland Conference presenter and past Rowland Principal Elijah Hawkes [shares this resource](#) for teachers, administrators, and parents looking for ways to confront white nationalism in school. Elijah currently serves as Director of School Leadership Programs and Program Faculty at the [Upper Valley Educators Institute \(UVEI\)](#) and serves as an advisor to the [Polarization and Extremism Research Lab \(PERIL\)](#) at American University. To learn more, you can contact him at: ehawkes@uvei.org

Walking with Horses

Anja Pfeffer (RF21) has one spot left in her incredibly popular Vermont State University course starting in July: **Walking with Horses**. [Learn more here!](#)

Onward



Registration is now open for the 2024–2025 **Onward: A Yearlong Emotional Resiliency Immersion for Educators!** In this immersive graduate course experience, educators will be provided the structure, knowledge, and guidance to reflect on their professional journey, contemplate change, practice new ways of being, and co-create a community of support. Throughout the school year, we will learn strategies and apply mindset shifts to manage stress and overcome the challenges of the teaching profession. Learn more [here](#) and/or contact Tara Cariano directly at info@taracariano.com.

Addison Central Openings

Addison Central School District (ACSD) is a fabulous place to work, and we're hiring! Middlebury Union High School is looking for a one-year-only school counselor. Middlebury Union Middle School is looking for a **school counselor** and a **social studies teacher**. We have seven elementary schools, and some of them are hiring too! Mary Hogan, a pk–5th school of 475 is looking for a **second school counselor** to add to our counseling team. Shoreham and Weybridge Elementary Schools are also seeking a **shared school counselor**. All nine of our schools are authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) schools, and we have been home to several Rowland Fellows over the years, including Elizabeth Placencia (RF23), Sabrina Westdjik (RF17), Kerianne Severy (RF17), Jen Kravitz (RF12), and Caitlin Steele (RFO9). You can find our current ACSD job postings online [here](#). Please check them out and pass them along! We're excited to welcome more inspired educators into our learning community.