

Televised Panel To Discuss State Of Education

Finding Common Ground on K-12 Education in St. Lawrence County will air for the first time Monday at 7:30 p.m. on WCKN, Time Warner Cable Channel 30, following Peak Moment TV. It will air again Tuesday at the same time.

Check the websites for Common Ground, AAUW-St. Lawrence County (<http://www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaauw/index.html>) and the League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County (<http://slc-leaguwv.org/>) for specific program links.

This local production, loosely based on the Washington Week in Review format, brings together a broad group of people who can put their respective ideologies aside and listen to each other in order to find common values that will lead to solutions to the challenges and problems we all face.

Moderated by Alexandra Jacobs, the media relations and government relations manager at SUNY Potsdam, a group of local people have been meeting since last fall to explore what the future holds for K-12 education in St. Lawrence County.

The guest panel for this discussion includes Tom Burns, superintendent for the St. Lawrence-Lewis Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Elizabeth Kirnie, superintendent of Norwood-Norfolk Central School, Ann Carvill, a former teacher and former Potsdam Board of Education president, and Donna Seymour, a member of St. Lawrence County Branch of the American Association of University Women, and also a parent and grandparent.

If you live in the north country, you know that national, state and local budgets are in crisis. These public financing problems are having a harsh impact on our K-12 public schools as well. Meanwhile, some districts have seen civil

discourse degenerate to ineffective name-calling and mudslinging. The intense concentration on these issues often obscures not only finding an answer but also underlying questions.

This Finding Common Ground panel looks at the current state of education and has a productive discussion about these difficult and pressing issues that goes beyond the needs of any one interest group. Join in a conversation that explores answers to meet a broad spectrum of needs around the question of quality education.

The civic partners for Finding Common Ground are AAUW-St. Lawrence County, the League of Women Voters of

St. Lawrence County, Seedcorn, the Center for Excellence in Communication at Clarkson University, and the Communications students at Clarkson University, who provided the technical video assistance.

You can watch the show on WCKN or on YouTube, after its broadcast debut. The Common Ground website <http://commongroundslc.wordpress.com/> is intended to let you read about the issues and help us frame questions that will help reach solutions to these challenges. Go to the Common Ground website and give your feedback and suggestions for additional topics. Some suggestions include redistricting, the Farm Bill, and rural poverty issues.