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“Voices and Choices”
Vermont’s 19th Annual Self-Advocacy Conference
For Adults and Youth with Developmental Disabilities, their Families and Supporters

Montpelier, VT — On May 15-16, 2017, Green Mountain Self-Advocates (GMSA) will hold Vermont’s 19th Annual “Voices and Choices” Self-Advocacy Conference at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Burlington, VT. The conference provides an opportunity for Vermonters with developmental disabilities, their families, service providers, and allies to collectively learn about decision-making, self-advocacy, and relationships. This annual event began in 1998. This year nearly 700 people representing every county in Vermont have registered to attend, as well as attendees from other states in New England.

The theme of this year’s conference is *We ALL Belong! Learning to Live Together*. GMSA works to create a community that is inclusive and values people with disabilities from all cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Sharing stories, speaking up together, and learning from one another is one way to achieve this vision. In line with our theme, this year’s Keynote presentation will feature three keynote speeches by new Americans with developmental disabilities. Chuda Karki, Ambar Pradhan, and Indra BhattaraiGurung will share their stories about having a disability and their hopes, dreams, and experiences.

Conference highlights include more than 20 workshops (all led by people with developmental disabilities, on topics such as “Take a Walk in Our Shoes: Include. Belong. Learn!” and “Catching the College Buzz”), a large variety of advocacy art projects, a dancing flash mob, a talent show, an awards ceremony, a Dinner Dance, amazing guest speakers (including Lt. Governor David Zuckerman, Representative Theresa Wood), exhibitor tables, and more. GMSA is extremely proud to have the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council and the State of Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) as a Super Advocate Level Sponsors for the 19th annual Voices and Choices Conference.

For more information about Green Mountain Self-Advocates, please visit [www.gmsavt.org](http://www.gmsavt.org).

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