“There is no change with tolerance…change occurs with transformation”.
- Jitu Brown

In February, youth and adults from UP for Learning and Vermont Learning for the Future attended the North Dakota Study Group’s annual meeting in Jackson, Mississippi. The theme of the annual meeting was *Visions of Excellence in Schools and Community: Learning From and With Jackson Students, Educators and Community Members*. The youth and adults were representing Twinfield Union School and Montpelier High School with the yearlong *Transforming School Culture Through Restorative Practices* work with UP for Learning, as well as the Vermont Learning For the Future network.

This place based experience provided participants a deep, intergenerational and interracial dialogue over the broad-based work occurring in Jackson and the Jackson Public Schools (JPS). Threatened by a state take-over, JPS is fighting back and reaffirming its identity through community-based leadership, and a commitment to self-determination that includes students.

The goal was to support and study Jackson’s historic and present-day activism, and make connections between this work and our own daily work— and decide what actions to take in our schools and communities. The VT team approached this meeting with the goal of how to individually and collectively push back against racism and injustice in VT communities and beyond. In doing so we deepened our own reflective practice and will continue to meet together to put our experience into concrete actions for VT.