



**Contact:** David Schütz - State Curator  
2 Gov. Aiken Ave., Montpelier, VT 05633, Cell: 802-279-5558  
[david.schutz@vermont.gov](mailto:david.schutz@vermont.gov)  
The Vermont State House, 115 State St., Montpelier, VT 05633  
[www.curator.vermont.gov](http://www.curator.vermont.gov). [www.statehouse.vermont.gov](http://www.statehouse.vermont.gov)

## **CERES RISES! Dedication and Lifting of the Statue onto the Dome!**

**Date: Friday, November 30**

**10:00- 11:30am** – public viewing/photo ops at the east entrance of the State House

**11:30- 12:00** Gov. Phil Scott, Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman and Speaker Mitzi Johnson

**12:00** The Statue of Agriculture will be lifted and placed on the dome

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The New Statue of *Agriculture* To Be Dedicated And Placed On The Vermont State House Dome—Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Montpelier --** Governor Phil Scott will preside with legislative leaders at a special celebration and ceremony to mark the dedication of the newly-carved statue of Agriculture which will be lifted by a crane to the top of the State House dome as the climax of this November 30<sup>th</sup> event. The lifting will take place at noon, but it will be preceded with a photo opportunity with the statue from 10 to 11:30, and the dedication ceremony will take place from 11:30 to noon.

The original statue was carved of native pine and named *Agriculture* by her creator, renowned Brattleboro sculptor Larkin Goldsmith Mead in 1858. Eventually, the statue became popularly known as *Ceres*, the Roman goddess of agriculture. The original figure rotted, and was replaced in 1938 with a Ponderosa pine version, carved, in part, by the 83-year-old sergeant-at-arms, Dwight Dwinell. That figure also rotted after 80 years, and was removed this past April. The Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services issued a Request For Proposals in May, and Chris Miller and Jerry Williams of the Barre granite sculpting community won the bid. Their new mahogany figure will soon crown the State House dome-- midday Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Sculptors [Jerry Williams](#) of Montpelier and [Chris Miller](#) of Calais have worked as a team to execute this project—with Williams as the model-maker and Miller carving the actual statue. Both will explain their process to visitors at the event, and answer questions about the creation of the 14 and a half foot statue. Both men have had heralded careers, with works throughout the country, and both received Vermont's Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts this month. Williams crafted the 48" model in his Barre Sculpture Studios on Blackwell Street, and Miller has worked publicly since late August in his temporary studio in a wing of the Vermont Granite Museum in Barre—with hundreds of visitors of all ages enjoying the process.

This event will allow visitors to see the statue up close on the ground, near the east entrance to the State House. Visitors will be able for an hour and a half to take photographs of her and with her from 10:00 am to 11:30 a-- before the ceremony and the lifting of the statue to the top of the dome. It is your chance to be part of this historic occasion.

It is also another chance to enjoy the fun of "Ceres On A Stick"—both free paper cutouts of the goddess as well as [Nuttty Steph's chocolate lollipop](#) versions for sale at the event. Throughout the event, free refreshments, chocolate samples, and photo opportunities will be provided by the [Friends of The Vermont State House](#) and [Montpelier Alive](#).

**For additional contact information:**

Regarding images or to set up an interview, please contact David Schutz: [David.Schutz@vermont.gov](mailto:David.Schutz@vermont.gov), 802-279-5558. For access to the sculptors contact Chris Miller: 802-223-0184 or email [cmillervermont@gmail.com](mailto:cmillervermont@gmail.com). or to obtain additional Ceres On A Stick information, contact [Montpelier Alive](#) : Dan Groberg, executive director, at [Director@montpelieralive.org](mailto:Director@montpelieralive.org), 802-223-9604; or [Nuttty Steph's Chocolate](#), Jacquelyn Rieke, [daughteroftheliberator@gmail.com](mailto:daughteroftheliberator@gmail.com), 802-229-2090; Scott McLaughlin, director, [vtgranitemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:vtgranitemuseum@gmail.com), 802 476-4605.

This event is free and open to the public.

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