

## DEBRA L. MCLAUGHLIN BIO

Debra McLaughlin, Managing Partner of The Kunnusta Group, has over 20 years of experience working in the social policy field. Through her consulting practice, The Kunnusta Group, McLaughlin specializes in promoting public/private partnership models and practices to affect social change in the areas of education, community development, and youth development. She has expertise in sustainability and strategic planning, project management, grant writing, meeting facilitation and marketing.

Most recently, she served as the Regional Coordinator for Building Bright Futures of Southeastern Vermont. In that capacity she worked with a diverse array of public and private stakeholders to promote the importance of early childhood in rural Windham County and also at the state level through her participation as a member of Vermont's Early Childhood Action Planning Committee.

McLaughlin also managed the Massachusetts Special Commission on After School and Out of School Time that studied and recommended how to create a statewide system to support the healthy development of children and youth through afterschool opportunities. The Special Commission's research and findings culminated into a report called **"Our Common Wealth: Building a Future for Our Children and Youth"** that was released in November 2007. This report was successfully used to increase state funding for statewide afterschool programs by \$3.5 million in the Massachusetts FY09 state budget and to create the first Massachusetts After School and Out-of-School Time Coordinating Council 2012.

She organized and managed the first and only Governor's Summit on Afterschool and Extended Learning Opportunities in 2006 in Massachusetts.

Prior to that, McLaughlin served as the Managing Director for Boston's After-School for All Partnership, the largest public/private partnership that invested over \$35 million in the city's afterschool sector benefiting over 5,000 children and youth. She also directed a number of afterschool and youth development initiatives to serve for at-risk children and youth in high-risk neighborhoods for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

A native of Southeastern Ohio, McLaughlin graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Organizational Communications from Ohio University. She is a past board member of the Center for Teen Empowerment and founder of the Center for Arts at the Armory – non-profit organizations devoted to improving the lives of children and youth through arts afterschool programs and youth leadership opportunities. She currently serves on the board of Somerville Local First, which promotes local entrepreneurship and is a partner in 3 Graces Productions, an endeavor that builds community through arts, cultural and music events.

McLaughlin is a resident of Guilford, Vermont.

For more information visit: [www.kunnusta.com](http://www.kunnusta.com).