

To: Vermont State College System Communities
From: Chancellor Sophie Zdatny
Re: **Transformation Update #22**
Date: January 31, 2022

Dear Vermont State Colleges Community,

For this week's update, I want to remind everyone that we have a new Transformation microsite up and running at <https://transformation.vsc.edu/>. More and more information is being added to the site so I would encourage you to check it out. We will be adding a transformation email address shortly so that you can more easily share your thoughts and feedback about the ongoing transformation work.

UPDATES FROM PROJECT TEAMS

The Board of Trustees received a progress report on transformation at its January 24th meeting. The materials are available [here](#) and include the spending to date on transformation, as well as upcoming Board decision points.

Academic Operations Team Update

The Core Team has had several focused discussions in the past two weeks with several sub-teams to review key aspects of their design work in progress, including with the General Education working group. This group discussed their mission, vision, and goals for Vermont State University's Connections General Education program and integration with elements including student success and retention, academic programs, advising, career development, and use of e-portfolios. The Libraries group discussed an approach to developing a core set of databases and library liaisons to academic areas in support of that approach.

The Teaching and Learning Innovation Transformation Team is excited to announce that it will soon be recruiting participants for a pilot program engaging early-adopter and innovative faculty in exploring the best ways to deliver courses combining in-person with remote access from Zoom or another campus (what we're calling Face-to-Face Plus or F2F+). The team is recruiting faculty from all future Vermont State University campuses, representing a wide range of discipline and experience, to participate in intensive Summer 2022 professional development and teach a new or redesigned course in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023. If you have questions or would like to express preliminary interest in participating in this pilot, please contact either Dr. Jae Basiliere at jae.basiliere@northernvermont.edu or Dr. Chris Boettcher at christopher.boettcher@castleton.edu.

Student Experience Team Update

The student experience teams continue their progress into the design phase of transformation. Many projects are currently underway or will be in the coming weeks. The project management team continues to work with each sub-team to finalize their list of projects and will begin moving them into Wrike (Project Management System).

As the timeline shortens between now and the launch of Vermont State University, the admissions/enrollment team is excited about the Slate project and is preparing to engage in an intense period of design and development over the next few months to bring three admissions and enrollment departments into one. The photograph below is from a three day retreat at Vermont Tech for the team with RHB (the external contractor supporting this project).



The marketing teams are also ramping up their activities and will be finalizing their plan for launching the Vermont State University awareness and brand campaign that will begin in the coming months.

Administrative Operations Team Update

The Information Technology and Facilities Planning teams recently completed their discovery stage gate meetings with the Project Sponsors and Stakeholders. The Operations and Processing Team is finalizing its discovery stage gate presentation materials. It is scheduled to hold its meeting with the Project Sponsors on February 10. The next group to be scheduled is the Alumni and Development team, which anticipates going through the process by the end of February.

The Business Planning group has divided into four small groups to tackle the key discovery items related to the strategic financial plan, budgeting processes, and allocation methodologies for the state appropriation, revenues, and expenses. We anticipate this group will go through the discovery meeting with the Project Sponsors in March.

The IT team is excited to announce that its Colleague project is kicking off with our partner Ferrilli. We will be launching the project team in the next week and will be prioritizing scheduling our business process review efforts. As shared during the most recent Board presentation, the scope of this project includes a thorough custom code review, unpacking years of customization in our environment to support a more streamlined business process, address support concerns, and set us up for long-term agility. Driven from the business process reviews will be adjustments to Colleague to support the new business of our colleges and the system. Ferrilli will be a close partner helping us to lead this project and providing critical resources to support our teams with doing this essential work. Membership and governance for this project will be uploaded to the transformation website in the next week.

Workforce Development Team Update

The Workforce Development team is continuing to engage in discovery and has decided upon the following working definitions to inform its work:

Workforce Development

- The Vermont State College Workforce Transformation Team defines workforce development as the strategic approach of developing education and training programs to meet the needs of existing and emerging businesses and organizations.
- We engage a complex ecosystem of public and private sector policies, and programs to provide individuals with the opportunity for a sustainable livelihood. Workforce development helps businesses and organizations create a highly educated workforce. The education component of workforce development includes credit and non-credit bearing offerings in an array of forms including apprenticeship, certificates, credits for prior learning, experiential learning, industry credentials, internships, and professional development. As a result, Vermont gains economic sustainability and prospers in an increasingly competitive global environment.

Continuing Education

- The Vermont State College Workforce Transformation Team defines continuing education as short-term credit or non-credit learning undertaken by individuals for either professional development or self-improvement.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Town Hall meetings are underway. The first was held (virtually) today for the Vermont Tech community. Folks from the Chancellor's Office, Community College of Vermont, Northern Vermont University, and Castleton University also participated in the meeting, which had over 130 participants.

There will be an in-person Town Hall at the Johnson campus tomorrow, February 1st at Noon. It will be held in Dibden and virtually at <https://www.vsc.edu/NVUJtownhall>.

There will be an in-person Town Hall at the Lyndon campus on Thursday, February 3rd at Noon. It will be held in Alexander Twilight and virtually at <https://www.vsc.edu/NVULTownhall>.

The final town hall will be held in the Casella Theater at Castleton next week on Wednesday, February 9th at Noon and virtually at <https://www.vsc.edu/CUtownhall>.

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Student Advisory Council welcomed several new members at its first meeting of the semester on Thursday. The focus of the meeting was on Canvas. Information about the Student Advisory Council, including powerpoint slides and transcripts, are now available on the Transformation website at <https://transformation.vsc.edu/student-advisory-council/>. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

UPCOMING BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Agenda and meeting materials for upcoming meetings are posted [here](#).

February 7, 2022, 1:00 p.m.	Audit Committee (Zoom)
February 7, 2022, 2:00 p.m.	Finance & Facilities (Zoom)
February 14, 2022, 1:00 p.m.	Special Board Meeting (Zoom)
March 7, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (Zoom)
March 19, 2022 (TBD)	Regular Board Meeting (Zoom)

Additional information about Board and Committee meetings, including information on how to access the meetings may be found [here](#).

With kind regards,

Sophie