

To: Vermont State College System Communities
From: Chancellor Sophie Zdatny
Re: **Transformation Update #30**
Date: May 23rd, 2022

Dear Vermont State Colleges Community,

Tomorrow I will be at Castleton to join the VSCS Academic Retreat and to share an update on the Transformation work. The title of this year's retreat is [The Changing Face of Education: Achieving Accessibility and Equality with Technology](#), which is key to the Transformation work as it links to [Vermont State University's mission](#).

As a reminder, you can [find all the past transformation updates](#) along with other resources on the [Transformation website](#).

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

At their May 16, 2022 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved proposed revisions to the bylaws establishing a Workforce Development Division unit within the Vermont State Colleges. The Executive Director of this new division will report to the Board, thereby reflecting the significant role that the VSC plays in meeting the workforce and continuing education needs of the state. The Workforce Development division will bring into alignment the program offerings, administrative support services, operational processes, and systems across the VSC system to meet critical talent and workforce needs. This will create a clear point of entry with a “no wrong door” philosophy. Building on the strengths of the current programs, expanding to new industry areas, continuing to pool resources, and expanding enrollment access across the state, the VSCS Workforce Development Division is envisioned as a one-stop-shop for Vermonters, Vermont businesses, and industries. The Workforce Development Transformation Team is exploring how best to structure the division for future success, recognizing that credit-bearing programs will continue to be delivered by the accredited institutions. See the team update below.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

To lead the Workforce Development effort, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to appoint Pat Moulton, current President of Vermont Technical College, to serve as the first Executive Director of Workforce Development. Pat will assume this role when she transitions out of the VTC Presidency in July. [Pat brings rich experience in economic development, state government, and higher education to this role](#). She has been with the VSC since 2017 when she was appointed

President of Vermont Technical College. Pat has decades of experience in the state of Vermont supporting economic growth by focusing on workforce development and education, prior to joining the VSC. She will be an exceptional leader in bringing the goals of the Workforce Development division to fruition. Please join me in congratulating Pat on this new appointment!

UPDATES FROM PROJECT TEAMS

Message from the Student Experience Team

Student experience teams are accelerating their design and implementation timelines now that the summer is upon us. There has been much discussion at the core team level of how the results of the [Ferrilli business process review and recommendations](#) will interplay with the proposed designs going forward.

Message from the Academic Operations Team

The Academic Operations Core team has been continuing work to define Student Success goals and map these to key aspects of our sub teams' designs, including advising, career development, and general education. All teams are anticipating completion of project designs in the next month and beginning to plan development and launch timelines for first-priority projects needed for the successful launch of Vermont State University on July 1, 2023. The team has identified a need that for a structure that supports an integrated approach to student success, particularly in the areas of advising, academic support, disability services, and career development.

Message from the Workforce Development Team

The workforce team continues to make great progress on design principles around 4 key "buckets" of planning: (i) systems improvement and integration; (ii) program development and student services; (iii) communication and engagement with customers which include both employers and student learners; and (iv) financial sustainability. The team is nearing the end its stage gate preparations and hopes to present to the Project Sponsors and Key Stakeholders in June.

VSCS DIVERSITY STATEMENT ADOPTED

Following a presentation from Dr. Jae Basiliere, Kathleen Mason, and Mary Brodsky, members of the DEI Transformation Team, [the Board adopted a system-wide Diversity Statement](#) at its May 16, 2022 meeting. Jae, Kathleen, and Mary explained how the statement was developed, how feedback from faculty, staff and students across the system was solicited, and how that feedback was then used to revise and finalize the statement. This process has provided a valuable opportunity to engage in conversations and opens the doors for further conversations and actions moving forward. The statement is foundational to that work but is not enough standing alone.

There is still a lot of work to do and effecting meaningful cultural change will take all of us, but VSC is committed to doing that work.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - HISTORIC FUNDING FROM THE STATE

The Vermont Legislature finalized the Fiscal Year 2023 state budget this week. Notably, the bill includes \$60.4 million designated for the Vermont State Colleges System: \$45.5 million in the system's annual appropriation and \$14.9 million in one-time funding. This is a \$10 million increase to our annual support from the state and is a historic increase, as it is the largest single-year increase to the annual allocation the VSC has received. This investment demonstrates the state's commitment to the success of the VSC institutions, the ongoing system transformation, our learners, and our communities. As previously noted in Transformation Update #23 (February 14, 2022), this funding has enabled the Board to enact a tuition freeze for our students in 2022-2023 for the second year in a row while we continue to modernize our academic programs and expand our workforce development offerings.

SUCCESSFUL BRAND AND WEBSITE LAUNCH

If you missed the brand launch, do not worry. You can [watch a recording of it](#), [view the new website](#), [read the press release](#), and watch [this shorter video over on Twitter](#). The word from Admissions is that prospective students are responding very positively to the new logo and branding.



UPCOMING BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| June 16, 2022, TBD | Board of Trustees (in person at Castleton) |
| August 3, 2022, TBD | DEI Committee (Zoom) |
| August 3, 2022, TBD | Board of Trustees (Zoom) |

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

Feedback

If you would like to submit your thoughts regarding the ongoing system transformation or offer suggestions to a specific team, please send your questions or comments to [Updated Way to Provide Input and Feedback – VSCS Transformation](#).

Are there items related to Transformation that you would like to see more of? Is there work by colleagues or students you would like to elevate? Please send suggestions for future spotlight features by emailing our Communications Assistant & Staff Writer Aurora at: aurora.hurd@vsc.edu

With kind regards,

Sophie