

To: Vermont State College System Communities

From: Chancellor Sophie Zdatny

Re: **Transformation Update #31**

Date: June 6th, 2022

Dear Vermont State Colleges Community,

CCV had its commencement over the weekend – congratulations to the more than 450 students who received associates degrees!

As we move into the summer, the Transformation work will continue. Updates on some of the ongoing work are included below.

If you are a new student to the VSC community, welcome! You can [find all the past transformation updates](#), along with other resources on the [Transformation website](#). It is our goal to make this process as transparent as possible.

ACADEMIC RETREAT THANK YOU

The VSCS Academic retreat, located both on the Castleton Campus and held virtually on May 24th, had a record attendance. The split between virtual and in-person attendance was about 50/50. The subject matter of the retreat asked attendees to engage with the changing face of education and explored how to create equity and accessibility through the use of technology. This is exactly the kind of work we are building with transformation.

Keynote speaker Sarah Lohnes Watula proposed some questions to think about when creating a hybrid learning environment. One was “who is my imagined student” and another was “who is being centered in my design?” As we strive for equity in teaching models, it is important to create systems that will benefit all students – whether those students are in-person or accessing everything virtually. This will take intentionality across our campuses to think of ways to create universal design in our systems for the benefit of all our students.

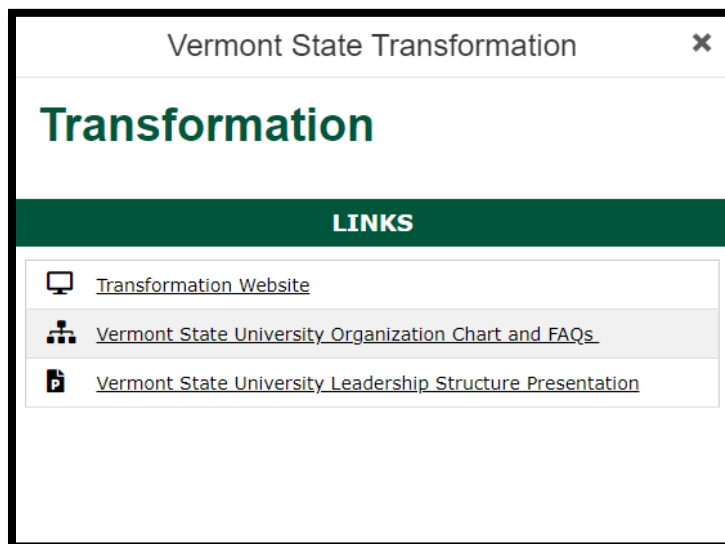
Thank you to everyone who attended from across the state, and to all the presenters and workshop leaders. This was a unique opportunity to engage in work that will continue to expand. I want to thank Sarah Corrow, Sarah Chambers, and all the members of the Teaching & Learning Technology Committee once more for their work in coordinating the retreat.

VERMONT STATE UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

On June 1st, a communication was shared with the faculty and staff at Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, and Vermont Tech about the leadership structure of Vermont State University. We [have a bold mission and vision to fulfill](#) together as we launch the new University, and these changes will support this work and the transformation teams.

On June 2nd, we held a Q&A Zoom session about these changes for all faculty and staff. If you were unable to attend, please watch your email for additional opportunities that will come in the next few weeks to attend similar sessions.

The organizational chart and the FAQs that were shared on Wednesday and the slides from Thursday's information session are available as links at the Transformation tile of the portal. Additional resources will be posted as they become available, including updates to the FAQs, instructions on how to set up alerts job postings, and a more detailed description of the anticipated hiring process.



UPDATES FROM PROJECT TEAMS

Message from the Student Experience Team

It's hard to believe that we are already into early June. Summer classes have started, and the weather is beautiful. The student experience teams are making great progress in their design work, and some have already moved into the development phase of transformation.

[Now that the new Vermont State University brand launch is behind us](#), you may be seeing different promotional ads online, on television, and even on the backs of a few buses! Excitement is growing for our new brand and the admissions and marketing teams are busy working on digital and printed materials for the upcoming recruitment season. Vermont is well known for its many outdoor events throughout the summer and Vermont State University will have a presence at many of them. The current brands of CU, NVU, and Vermont Tech are well recognized in Vermont so it will be important to help people understand how coming together as Vermont State University is good for our state and local communities. Some of the events we will be present for include the Vermont Festival of Fools in Burlington, the Do Good Fest in Montpelier, and the Killington Summer Concert Series.

As we design and develop the student experience for Vermont State University, we must consider the many populations of students we serve to ensure that we are providing a high quality and equitable experience for them across all learning modalities and campus locations. International students are and will continue to be a very important population in our communities. Just recently, we convened a team of admissions and student affairs staff to do some discovery around recruitment and support services for international students at our current locations. The team will evaluate current practices and make recommendations for the future. Just in the short time since the new [Vermont State University landing page was launched](#), there have been several inquiries from international students. Looking at the application numbers for this fall, we could be looking at another class of record-breaking or near record-breaking enrollment of international students and we need to be ready to welcome and support them in our communities.

Message from the Academic Operations Team

Faculty across our campuses are coming together this summer to work on several significant dimensions of transformation. This is in addition to the work taking place within academic operations transformation teams, such as advising. Faculty in many of the new academic departments-to-be for Vermont State University have been meeting to complete curriculum designs for optimized programs. The general education group is continuing its work to define learning outcomes for the Connections program. Faculty Assembly and Federation Leaders will be working over the summer to develop a new governance structure and the Curriculum Committee Chairs will be preparing for review of academic programs.

Message from the Administrative Operations Team

[All Administrative Operations teams](#) have completed initial discovery and begun the hard work of moving into the design phase. As they concluded Discovery, the Employee Services team provided an excellent summary of our strengths and areas of opportunity. They will be focusing first on student employment-related design work and will then move on to other key areas.

IT and Facilities continue to take actions related to key areas with special emphasis on safety, security, and information access. The Business Operations team has focused significant attention [on the business process design work with Ferrilli](#). Additionally, the Business Affairs Council (a subset of the Business Planning Team) has focused significant attention on the development of the new general ledger chart of accounts. A key deadline for a new chart is June 16 and the team is working hard to meet that date.

Message from the Workforce Development Team

As part of discovery, the Workforce Development is wrapping up the key design principles that will serve as the foundation of the new division. Next week, Dr. Richard Rhodes, Chancellor of the Austin Community College system, will be joining us so we can learn more about their workforce efforts. He was a speaker at a recent conference several of our people attended, and we were impressed with the strategies they have put in place. We look forward to Dr. Rhodes' presentation and what we can learn from their experiences.

NEW DEISJ WEBPAGE

[A new page has been created for diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice work](#) that members of the VSC and the Board of Trustees have engaged in.

UPCOMING BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

June 16, 2022, 1:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees (in person at Castleton)
August 3, 2022, TBD	DEI Committee (Zoom)
August 3, 2022, TBD	Board of Trustees (Zoom)
August 22, 2022, TBD	Finance & Facilities Committee (Zoom)
August 22, 2022, TBD	Education, Personnel & Student Life Committee (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 the VSCS Transformation website](#).

Are there items related to Transformation about which you would like to learn more? 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 at: aurora.hurd@vsc.edu

With kind regards,

Sophie