



VSCS Transformation Newsletter (8/29/22)

Transformation Update #37

August 29, 2022

Bringing you the latest updates in the [Vermont State Colleges System's transformation project](#).

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New to the VSC? The Vermont State College system is engaged in a five-year plan, the first phase of which is to launch the new Vermont State University. This will be comprised of Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, and Vermont Technical College and will be launched July 1, 2023. As we transition into the next phase, Transformation work will also include administrative consolidation across the system. You can read past [Transformation Updates](#), visit [the Transformation website](#), or [the Vermont State University website](#) to learn more.

Welcome from the Chancellor

Welcome to the start of a new academic year!

This academic year will be an exciting one for the Vermont State Colleges System, and I hope it will be an exciting one for you as well. As Transformation work continues, there will be more opportunities for students, faculty, and staff across the campuses and institutions to collaborate with each other. There is a lot of work still to be done, but significant progress has been made in this past year.

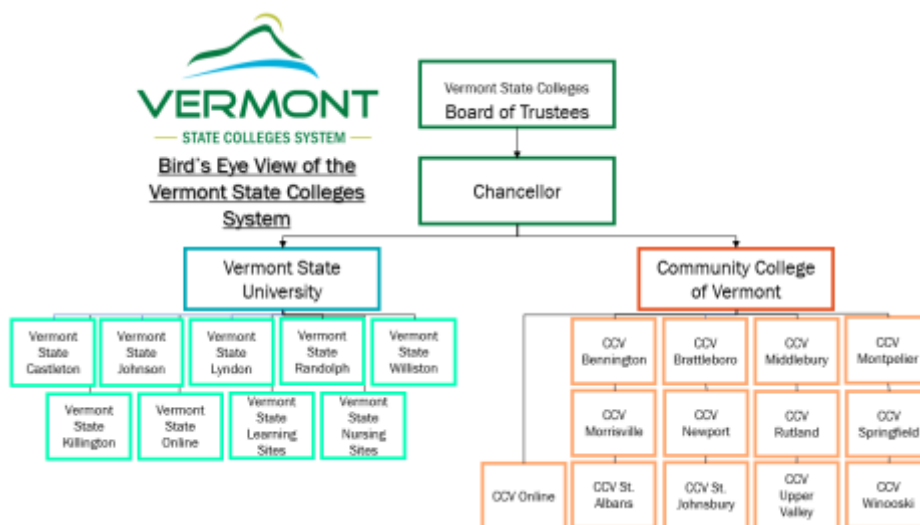
For the new students who might wonder what transformation is all about, the work is grounded in creating greater opportunities for all current and future students, including non-traditional students such as adult learners. We are entering Year Two of a five-year transformation project, which includes the launch of Vermont State University in July 2023, as well as system-wide consolidation of certain administrative functions, such as Information Technology, Finance and Business Operations, and Human Resources. We are also looking to build on our already strong workforce development programs and opportunities.

For those students interested in being part of guiding this work, [please consider joining the Student Advisory Council](#). We are interested in receiving feedback from a wide variety of students, including full-time and part-time students, undergraduate and graduate students, in person and online students, student athletes, student parents, workforce students, in state and out of state students, residential and commuter students, students who manage disabilities, first generation students, students from historically under-represented groups, international students, etc.

When fully transitioned, the Vermont State Colleges system will be comprised of Vermont State University and the Community College of Vermont. Below you will be able to find a high-level organizational chart of the future VSCS.

With kind regards and best wishes,

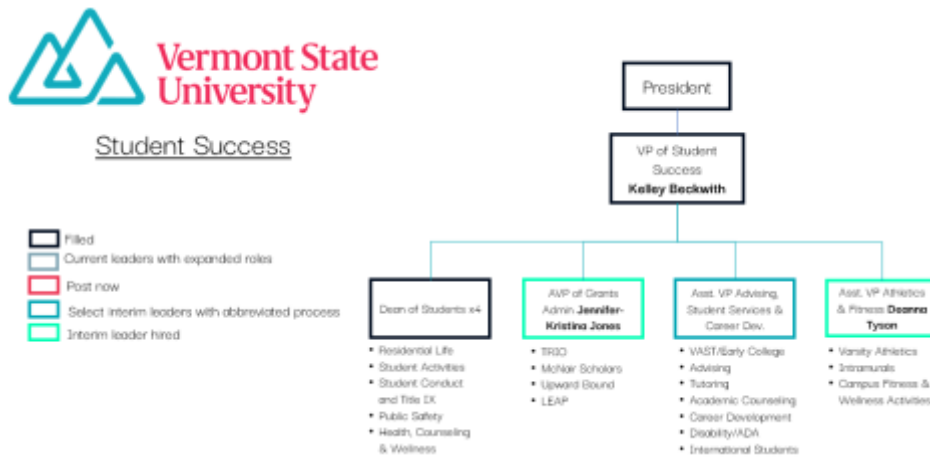
[Chancellor Sophie Zdatny](#)



Appointment of the Vice President of Student Success

We are thrilled to announce that we've appointed Vermont State University's Vice President of Student Success. Please join us in congratulating Kelley Beckwith on her appointment to lead this key work. The VP of Student Success is a permanent position that will report to the President of Vermont State and will help guide the work to create a student-centered, hybrid university.

Kelley currently serves as the Associate Dean of Student Success at Castleton. She has served in multiple roles at Castleton and within the Vermont State Colleges system, bringing significant experience to the role. She has been engaged in the transformation work, leading the team on advising, academic support, and disability services, as well as serving as part of the core team for Academic Operations. Her dedication to ensuring that all students have a positive experience and strong outcomes through the new integrated systems of student success is clear in the work she has and will continue to do. We are excited and honored she has stepped forward to take this role!



Reminder: Nominations to the Student Advisory Council due September 9, 2022



As mentioned in the previous update, we are hoping to add some new faces to the Student Advisory Council for the Fall 2022 semester. If you are a student who would be interested in joining or you are a faculty or staff member who know a student you would like to nominate, please complete the nomination form by September 9.

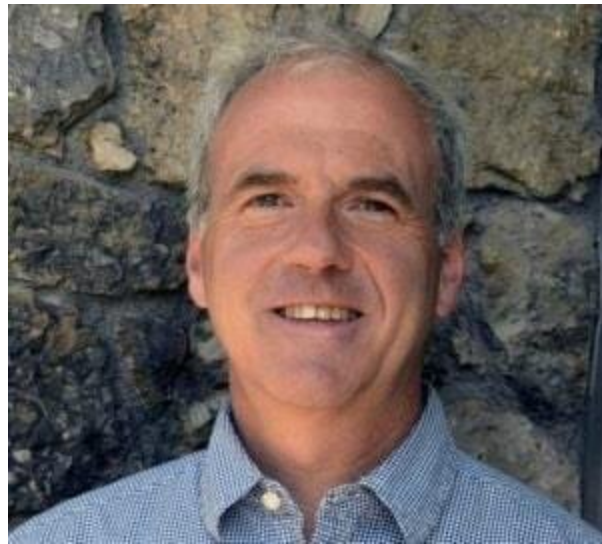
Vermont State Colleges Board Welcomes Two New Members

Announced in an August 17, 2022 press release, the Vermont State Colleges' Board of Trustees welcomed Castleton University sophomore Perry Ragouzis and State Representative David Durfee to the Board.

Representative David Durfee joins the Board of Trustees from Shaftsbury, VT and represents the Bennington-3 district in the Vermont House of Representatives. About joining the Board of Trustees Representative Durfee said "the Vermont State Colleges System is an integral resource for the people who live and work in this state. Joining the Board of Trustees is an opportunity to move the needle on meeting the needs of Vermonters. The upcoming unification of three Vermont schools from around the state ensures that students anywhere in Vermont can do anything, from earning a four-year degree in environmental studies, to completing career training as an HVAC technician. I am happy to bring my

systems-level knowledge and experience with business and cooperatives to the board, and to advocate for the relevance and success of the system within the legislature.”

Perry Ragouzis is a current student at Castleton University studying political science. Ragouzis stated, “I am looking forward to joining the Board of Trustees at this exciting time in the Vermont State Colleges history. The creation of Vermont State University means that we can bring together the best of our Vermont schools to form something entirely new. I am thrilled that I will get to be a part of the decision-making process, bringing my skills and the student voice to this important work. My goal is to make sure that the student experience is prioritized, whether that means for four-year degree-seeking students, part-time students and commuter students, and those in the workforce development programs around the state.”



Job Posting Announcement: Associate VP of Workforce, Community, and Economic Development

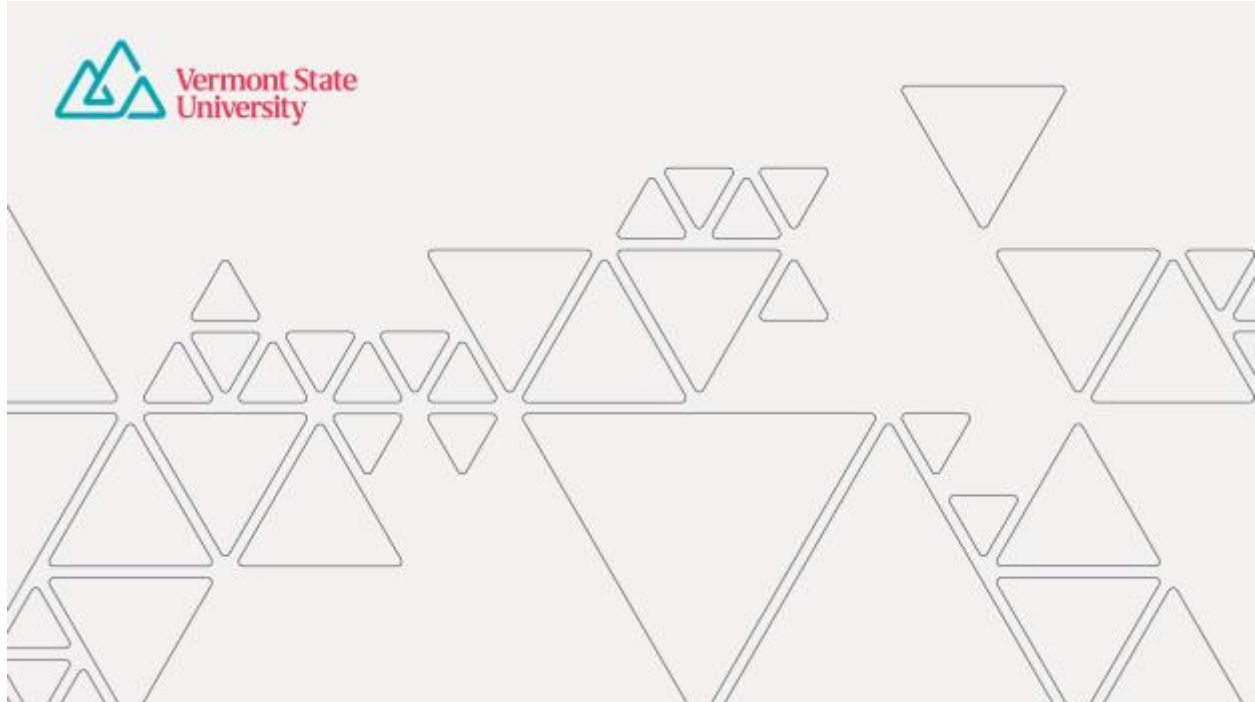
The position of Associate Vice President of Workforce, Community, and Economic Development has been posted internally. This position reports directly to the president of Vermont State University and will serve a key role in supporting VTSU's mission to become a national model for preparing career-ready students. The work of this position will foster the evolution of VTSU as a workforce and economic development engine in communities across the state.

This position is an important one in this context and more. It will bring all existing programs related to Continuing Education, K-12, workforce, community, economic development, and business and industry partnerships on all the university campuses under a single umbrella. This will make coordination better across all campuses by increasing efficiency, cost effectiveness, compliance, and accountability.

The individual who fills this position will serve as the connection of workforce development within VTSU to the work that is being done throughout the Vermont State Colleges System (VSCS). They will work closely with the VSCS Executive Director of Workforce Development (whose role is to coordinate and expand workforce and continuing education opportunities across the system), the VTSU Provost, the College Deans, Department Chairs and faculty, the VP of Admissions and Enrollment Marketing, and the VP of Student Success to coordinate all workforce, community, and business development activities, programs, and initiatives.

The search committee is excited to begin reviewing applications. For directions on how to find this and other internal postings, please find instructions on the portal by selecting the Transformation tile. If you have questions, please reach out to Chief Human Resources Officer Sarah Potter (Sarah.Potter@vsc.edu).

Updates from Transformation Project Teams



Message from the Academic Operations Team

The Academic Operations Core Team is looking forward to transitioning into a new structure with the appointment of Kelley Beckwith as Vice President for Student Success and completion of design elements from related sub-teams and working groups. Over the next two weeks, the team will be reviewing an expanded, integrated student success design with sponsors that includes all the functional areas of student success.

With significant effort by faculty over the summer, an initial group of 21 programs are now undergoing the coordinated review process by all curriculum committees and Faculty Assemblies. The General Education Group has also worked to incorporate feedback over the summer from faculty and academic operations transformation teams into a revised final proposal for Faculty Assembly review in the coming weeks. Projects to support unified VTSU academic scheduling and a single VTSU catalog are also now underway.

Message from the Administrative Operations Team

On the Facilities Team's side, there has been continued progress in the area of leasing and divestment of sites. A survey proposal was received from Civil Engineers, indicating some intensive sitework is required. Meetings are happening with Veteran Services, as well as other entities, to explore housing possibilities.

The Information Technology's team has a Statement of Work in progress for Business Intelligence Support resources. The Cyber Security project had their kick-off meeting. A reminder that the IT Shared Services leadership positions have been posted internally. Employees can access these and other positions by logging into UKG under My Company > View Opportunities.

Message from the Student Experience Team

New student move-in and orientation programs were a success at all our locations over the past couple of weeks. Over 40 new international students are starting their first semester at Castleton and were proud to be photographed in front of the Alumni Gate!

Admissions continues to prepare for the fall recruitment season. Boxes and boxes of new Vermont State University recruitment materials arrived on our campuses last week and are looking great! At this time, VTSU is confirmed to be at 280+ recruitment events in the northeast this fall. We expect the number to grow to around 300. In addition, there will be many high schools visited in the areas surrounding these regional events. Our team will begin their travel season over the next couple of weeks.

This past week, the Athletics transformation team presented their vision and design for varsity, club, and intramural athletics to the sponsors. In addition, they shared their vision of SHAPE facilities and services for Vermont State University. The Student and Residence Life team shared their vision and design for operating a new, unified approach to residential operations across our campuses. There was good conversation and the teams will await feedback regarding next steps.

Pictures from the International Student Orientation at Castleton.





[Message from the Workforce Development Team](#)

The Workforce Core Team is working on collecting data needs going forward, as well as looking at historical workforce development data. This will define current activity in this work and assist with setting benchmarks to measure future success. In addition, a smaller Strategy Team is working on a design outline for workforce development at the system-level under the Executive Director of Workforce Development. This bifurcation of the work should be a more efficient use of team members' time and meet upcoming deadlines.

[Vermont State Colleges in the News](#)

[Last 1st day at 3 Vermont colleges before transforming into Vermont State University.](#)

[Vermont State University hires new chief diversity officer:](#) an interview with Jae Basiliere.

[Ranking of 90 best nursing schools in New England: VT Tech ranked #56 and Castleton ranked #59.](#)

[CCV and VSAC offer free tuition to Vermonters](#) through the 802 Opportunity Grant.

NVU faculty [Gina Mireault, who was awarded a NIH grant, was interviewed by WDEV.](#)



Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings



Public comment is now held at or near the start of Board and Committee meetings. [The Board Chair's Rules for Public Comment are available on the VSC website](#), as is a form to [submit public comment before the meetings](#).

- *August 31, 2022 | 1:00 p.m. | Zoom | Education, Personnel & Student Life Committee*
 - *September 20 & 21, 2022 | In Person at Lake Morey | Board of Trustees (Fall Retreat)*
 - *October 17, 2022 | Time TBD | Zoom | Audit Committee*
 - *October 17, 2022 | Time TBD | Zoom | Finance & Facilities Committee*
 - *October 27, 2022 | Time TBD | Zoom | Education, Personnel, & Student Life Committee*
 - *October 27, 2022 | Time TBD | Zoom | Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*
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Additional information about Board and Committee meetings, including information on how to access the meetings can be found on the VSC website.

Feedback



If you would like to submit your thoughts regarding the ongoing system transformation or offer suggestions to a specific team, please send them to: [Engage – 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 at: aurora.hurd@vsc.edu