



VSCS Transformation Newsletter (9/12/22)

Transformation Update #38

September 12, 2022

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

In This Issue:



- Transformation Team Structure Changes to be Implemented this Month
- Progress Report Submitted to NECHE
- Spotlight #1: AdAstra
- Spotlight #2: Integrated Student Success
- Transformation Project Updates
- Two New Admissions & Enrollment Leadership Appointments for Vermont State University
- Vermont State Colleges in the News
- Upcoming Student Advisory Council Meetings

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.

Transformation Team Structure Changes to be Implemented this Month

Back in June, [we communicated about changes that were coming to the structures of the transformation teams](#). The shift is being made to align the core team structure with the leadership structure of the new university, as well as the leadership of system-wide work. The new list of core teams will be as follows: New Student Experience, Student Success, Academic Programs, Administrative Operations, and Workforce Development.

The sub-teams and project teams that are currently under Student Experience will be moved to New Student Experience, Student Success, or Academic Programing. The Academic Operations sub-teams and project teams will be realigned to fall under either Student Success or Academic Programs.

The work to transfer the teams into this structure will finish this month, now that the VP of Student Success, Kelley Beckwith, has been appointed. Kelley will be heading the **Student Success** core team, while Maurice Ouimet, as VP of Admissions & Enrollment Services, will head **New Student Experience**, and Nolan Atkins, VP of Academic Affairs/Provost, will head **Academic Programs**.

The role of the sponsors and stakeholders is to meet with the teams and provide input. The sponsors and stakeholders will continue to do so under this revised model but with some slight changes. They will be split into two groups. The work of New Student Experience, Student Success, and Academic Programs primarily supports Vermont State University, with President Grewal serving as the key sponsor. The Council of Presidents will continue to serve as the key sponsor for Administrative Operations and Workforce Development, as these teams are involved in transformation work that affects the whole Vermont State Colleges System.

This will be the last newsletter update with the previous four team structure. Starting September 26 and going forward, updates will be provided in the new five team structure.

| Sponsor: VTSU President | | | Sponsor: Council of Presidents | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| VTSU Stakeholders | | | VSCS Stakeholders | |
| New Student Experience | Student Success | Academic Programs | Administrative Operations | Workforce Development |
| Admissions and Enrollment | Athletics | Program Optimization/ Governance | Alumni and Development | |
| Brand Launch & Marketing | Student and Residence Life | General Education | Business Planning and Administration | |
| Financial Aid Operations | Advising, Academic Support, and ADA | Institutional Research | Employee Relations and Transaction Services | |
| | Career Service | Teaching and Learning Innovation | Facilities Planning | |
| | | Registrar & Scheduling Operations | IT Services | |
| | | Libraries (accountable to COP) | Operations and Procurement | |

Progress Report Submitted to NECHE

On August 31, 2022, Vermont State Colleges submitted the first of two progress reports to the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). The second report will be due in March. These reports are to demonstrate that Vermont State University is meeting the Commission's Standards for Accreditation for its July 2023 launch. [The September report can be read on the transformation website, as well as additional information about NECHE accreditation.](#)

Spotlight #1: Ad Astra

An Update on the Academic Scheduling Project

In the spring and summer, a team was assembled from across the Vermont State Colleges to review and select a software product to support the Vermont State University's academic scheduling needs. Past scheduling practices have been largely based on rolling over the past terms' offerings and making minor adjustments. Demand-based course scheduling practices will be critical to ensure students have access to the courses they need at their location, including online. We are taking a data-driven approach to course scheduling, with the goal of increasing the ability of students to access courses when they need them so they can stay on track for graduation, to manage scheduling effectively across multiple locations and modalities, and to help improve the financial sustainability of the system.

Ad Astra has been selected as our vendor partner to do this work, as it will meet the need to build more effective and efficient processes and to better understand and forecast the course section needs of our students. The implementation project will be hands-on, and the team will work to schedule courses for the Fall 2023 term.

Some goals of the project include:

- Building a more student-focused term schedule that allows students to move seamlessly through their course program
- Reducing the number of human hours required to build a term schedule
- Creating a more user-friendly scheduling process and platform

You can learn more about the project scope, timeline, and project team, [by reviewing the project charter](#).

Spotlight #2: Integrated Student Success

Last week, VTSU's Vice President for Student Success Kelley Beckwith and transformation team members representing functional areas including advising, academic support and TRIO, disability services, international student support, student life, and residence life presented their design to sponsors. The design proposal outlines how the various functional areas in the VTSU student success division will be integrated and coordinated. Next steps scheduled to begin in September include staffing plans for all areas.

The goal of this model is that students will no longer need to visit multiple offices, complete inconsistent processes, or search for multiple web resources for common questions and transactions, thereby ensuring that person-to-person interactions are high value and efficient.

[Read More](#)

Transformation Project Updates



This will be the last set of updates with the old team structure.

Updates from Student Experience

The Vermont State University Admissions team is going on the road this week. All printed promotional material and event displays have arrived to attract students across the northeast and beyond to be a part of the inaugural class of Vermont State. The applications for Vermont State are in their final testing phase and are scheduled to launch very soon. Also key for enrollment of new and current students [are the updates to the university's microsite](#), which are on schedule and are happening now. Planning for

fall campus events is underway – we hope to see and meet folks throughout the different university campuses!

Update from Administrative Operations

The IT shared services leadership positions have been posted internally for 15+ days and are now under review following the HR processes, which staff and faculty can find outlined in the VSCS portal.

Chief Information Officer Kellie Campbell is excited to announce the first round of appointments:

- **Director of IT Operations:** Gayle Malinowski
- **Director of Technical Support Services:** Jason Ryan
- **Director of Enterprise Infrastructure:** Charlie Bombard
- **Manager of Network and Telecommunications:** Tom Maguire
- **Manager of Data Center and Systems Administration:** Michael Martel
- **Information Security Analyst:** Ken Bernard

A big congratulations to this talented group of folks! They will be part of the continued work and collaboration on transformation work.

Updates from Workforce Development

The core team continues to focus on gathering and reviewing data on existing workforce development and continuing education activities across the system. Progress has been made on determining what data needs to be collected going forward. The strategy sub-team had its first of two meetings, which President Judy, President Grewal, and Chancellor Zdatny attended. Part of the discussion included envisioning what the delivery of workforce development at the Vermont State Colleges will look like in five years.

Two New Admissions & Enrollment Leadership Appointments for Vermont State University

We are excited to announce two regular Vermont State University hires to the Admissions & Enrollment leadership team. Both individuals bring experience that will ensure Vermont State's incoming students receive top notch service.

Teresa McCormack will be serving as Director of Financial Aid. She has served in Financial Aid roles of increasing responsibility at Castleton since 2003. She started her role of as the Director of Financial Aid in January of 2020. A few months later, she had to pivot the financial aid operations to be delivered virtually, as well as distributing incoming relief funds to students. Both of which she accomplished successfully.

Emily Wiezalis will be serving as Director of Enrollment Communications. She currently serves as Assistant Dean of Enrollment at Castleton, a role she has held since 2007. She contributed to the development of Vermont State's mission and vision, as well as played a role on the admissions and

marketing transformation teams. This work and her excitement to support students' educational goals makes her a key team player to do this work.

Please join us in congratulating Teresa and Emily on their new roles!



Vermont State Colleges in the News

[The WCAX segment on Upward Bound, which highlights how NVU and Castleton are making a college education more accessible to Vermont students.](#)

[First cohort of Copley Hospital Healthcare Career Pathways program graduates.](#)

[NVU students swept the Multimedia Journalist Category in the NATAS 2022 Student Production Awards this past June.](#)

[VTC's orchard opens for the season on September 17.](#)

[Castleton Arts Fall 2022 Events Preview](#)

[CCV Faculty Honored with Teaching Excellence Award](#)

[Artist, and NVU Alum, opens exhibit 'The Lost Garden' at Bridgewater College](#)



Upcoming Student Advisory Council Meetings

- *September 15, 2022 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. | Zoom*
 - *September 2022 SAC Social | Date and Time TBD | In Person*
 - *October 20, 2022 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. | Zoom*
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More information about [the Student Advisory Council](#) can be found on the [Transformation website](#).

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](#).

- *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*
 - *October 31, 2022 | Time TBD | Zoom | Board of Trustees*
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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