

TO: VSCS Finance & Facilities Committee

FROM: Sharron R. Scott, Chief Financial and Operating Officer

DATE: December 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting on December 7, 2020

---

The materials are now available for the upcoming Finance & Facilities meeting scheduled for **10:00 a.m.** on Monday, **December 7, 2020**. The meeting will take place via Zoom and will be livestreamed on YouTube.

We have one presentation scheduled for this meeting.

**Chancellor Zdatny** and I will present the general fund budget and capital bill proposals to the committee. This short, 5-10 minute presentation will outline the context of our budget asks to the administration. We hope that this this will spark discussion.

As part of the **AY2021-2022 Tuition and Fees Recommendation**, I will share information regarding tuition setting for the upcoming academic year. As part of this discussion I will place the VSCS' tuition into context with the VSCS budget, the strategic priorities of the Vermont State Colleges, the work of the Select Committee, and the regional and national context and discourse regarding tuition setting for public institutions during the pandemic. We will **review and request approval** of the Chancellor's recommendation to freeze tuition for AY2021-2022.

As part of the **System-Wide Budget Preparation** discussion I will provide an update regarding budget planning factors, timelines, and current action steps to address the projected budget shortfall for FY2022.

Recognizing your time is limited, I have included supplemental information regarding our current and pending **grants** as well as **capital projects**. Staff will be available to answer questions about these items as part of **Other Business** if requested.

I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Cc: VSCS Board of Trustees  
Council of Presidents  
Business Affairs Council



# **Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting**

**December 7, 2020  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. via Zoom**

## **AGENDA**

1. Call to order
2. Approve minutes of October 29, 2020
3. FY2022 Capital Bill and State Appropriation Proposals
4. AY2021-2022 Tuition and Fees Recommendation
5. System-Wide Budget Preparation
6. Other Business
7. Public Comment
8. Adjourn

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee held Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom - UNAPPROVED**

*Note: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/or approval at the subsequent meeting.*

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Finance and Facilities Committee met on Thursday, October 29, 2020 via Zoom.

Committee members present: David Silverman (Vice Chair), Lynn Dickinson (12:55 p.m.), Adam Grinold, Linda Milne (2:00 p.m.), Mike Pieciak

Absent: Shawn Tester

Other Trustees present: Megan Cluver, Dylan Giambatista, Bill Lippert, Karen Luneau, James Masland, Mary Moran

Presidents: Elaine Collins, Joyce Judy, Pat Moulton, Jonathan Spiro (Interim)

Chancellor's Office Staff: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst  
Kevin Conroy, Chief Information Officer  
Renee Hunt, Controller  
Katherine Levasseur, Director of Governmental & External Affairs  
Katrina Meigs, System Director of HR & Benefits Administration  
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director  
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial and Operating Officer  
Patty Turley, General Counsel  
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor  
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Provost, Northern Vermont University  
Sarah Chambers, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Castleton University  
Gisele Hodgdon, Director of Business Operations, Community College of Vermont  
Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Castleton University  
Tom Mauhs-Pugh, Provost, Castleton University  
Sandra Noyes, President, VSC Staff Federation, Northern Vermont University

Maurice Ouimet, Dean of Enrollment, Castleton University  
Andy Pallito, Dean of Administration, Community College of  
Vermont  
Toby Stewart, Dean of Administration, Northern Vermont  
University  
Littleton Tyler, Dean of Administration, Vermont Technical  
College  
Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

From the Public: Lola Duffort, Reporter, VT Digger

1. Chair Silverman called the meeting to order at 12:47 p.m.
2. Approve minutes of August 24, 2020 and FIPSE grant

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Yasmine Ziesler informed the Committee that the FIPSE grant is system-wide and supports the VSC Strong Project, which is designed to improve Vermont high school to college continuation rates.

**Trustee Grinold moved and Trustee Pieciak seconded the motion to approve the August 24, 2020 meeting minutes and the FIPSE Grant. The motion was approved unanimously.**

3. Introduction: Renee Hunt, Vermont State Colleges System Controller

Chief Financial/Operating Officer Sharron Scott introduced Renee Hunt, incoming VSC System Controller in the Chancellor's Office. Ms. Hunt will be overseeing general accounting, accounts receivable, cash management, grant compliance and payroll for the Vermont State Colleges.

4. FY21 Budget Review and Approve

CFOO Scott shared that the VSC's FY21 unrestricted operating deficit, prior to the use of bridge funding and CRF is approximately \$28.4 million. After the use of the Bridge and CRF funds, the system-wide operating budget reflects revenue over expenses of approximately \$2 million. System wide revenue is down 13.1%, student discounting rose from 12% to 20% over 3 years and while gross student tuition increased by approximately \$2 million, student tuition net of discounts decreased by approximately \$7.5 million. Declining demographics and competition that is better funded and seeking our same student pool makes it a challenging environment in which to operate.

**Trustee Dickinson moved and Trustee Pieciak seconded the motion to recommend to the Board the approval of Resolution 2020-022 FY2021 Vermont State Colleges System Annual Operating Budget. The motion was approved unanimously.**

5. Review and approve gift for NVU

Executive Session.

**At 1:23 pm Trustee Silverman moved that the VSCS Finance and Facilities Committee enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) for the purpose of receiving confidential attorney client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services; and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A) to discuss a proposed contract to which the VSC may be a party. The motion stated that because premature general public knowledge of these discussions would place the VSCS at a substantial disadvantage it was appropriate for the Committee to enter executive session. Along with the members of the Board present at the meeting, the Board invited the Chancellor, the President and the Dean of Administration of Northern Vermont University, the VSCS Chief Financial and Operating Officer, and the VSCS General Counsel to attend. Trustee Dickinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The Committee exited executive session at 1:44pm.

**Trustee Dickinson moved and Trustee Pieciak seconded the motion to recommend to the Board the approval of Resolution 2020-023. The motion was approved unanimously.**

6. FY2020 Fund Balance Review

The committee deferred this agenda item to the next meeting.

7. FY2020 Fund Balance Analysis Review

The Committee deferred this agenda item to the next meeting.

8. Enrollment Update

CFOO Scott described student revenue as the primary driver of revenue for the Vermont State Colleges. Ms. Scott illustrated the negative overall impact that a smaller incoming class can have on overall institutional enrollment in future years.

Castleton University President Jonathan Spiro shared that enrollment did decline overall especially among first year students due to a number of factors: COVID-19, the recession, a

distaste for online learning. CU plans to do customized outreach to attempt to bring students back and President Spiro welcomes the marketing opportunity of a fiscal restructuring of the VSCS. President Spiro noted that CU would be returning to approximately 30% face-to-face instruction in Spring 2021, which he hopes will boost both enrollment and residential hall numbers.

Northern Vermont University President Elaine Collins shared that NVU plans to continue with a mix of in person, remote and hybrid classes in Spring 2021. NVU has delayed the start of classes until February and is seeking to provide an adequate ratio of each modality of course offerings: in person, hybrid and remote. President Collins is looking forward to being able to get students back to campus and in person, resuming conferences and events on the campus, as the experiences at NVU are one of the most important draws to the school.

Vermont Technical College President Pat Moulton shared that VT Tech will continue its current mode of delivery in Spring 2021 – *i.e.* remote instruction with rotating, on campus lab participation. President Moulton voiced concern that students will not want to return in the spring. VT Tech is still dealing with the perception of possible campus closures and the consequent negative impact. Faculty is energized by the opportunities presented for remote delivery and VT Tech continues its transformation process through office consolidation and property divestiture.

Community College President Joyce Judy shared that CCV's spring semester will be identical to its fall semester with classes being offered in 5 modalities: online, synchronous online, flex, accelerated and hybrid. Each instructor is required to complete a one credit course on remote instruction which has been very beneficial for CCV's success in online instruction. Additionally, each class is small and takes attendance, which encourages a high level of engagement.

#### 9. FY22 Budget Update

CFOO Scott shared that while transformation work is ongoing at the VSCS, there is still a significant budget gap for FY22 as had been expected. The estimated potential deficit is between \$42 million and \$47 million. She noted that the VSCS has taken strides in recent months to streamline operations, as described at both the EPSL and LRPC Committee meetings held earlier in the day. Work with legislative leaders on the next portion of the bridge funding has begun and exploration into possible use of CRF money beyond December 30<sup>th</sup> is in the works.

Chancellor Zdatny shared that discussions about the system wide initiatives being worked on from the Chancellor's Office were discussed in the earlier LRPC Committee meeting. These can be found on page seven [here](#).

10. Investment Subcommittee

The Committee deferred this agenda item to the next meeting.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Public Comment

VT Digger Reporter Lola Duffort asked for a timeline for the budget development for FY22. CFOO Scott answered that the process has already begun and the first pass will be brought to the Board in January and the final pass will be brought to the Board in June of 2021. Ms. Scott clarified that this year was an unusual year and a transitional budget for FY21 was previously approved in June 2020.

13. Adjourn

Vice Chair Silverman adjourned the meeting at 3:06p.m.

## **FY2022 Capital Bill and State Appropriation Proposals**

In November Chancellor Zdatny, Sharron Scott, and Katherine Levasseur met with the Administration to review and discuss the Capital Bill and General Fund budget proposals. During the December 7, 2020 Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting Chancellor Zdatny and Sharron Scott will briefly present an overview of these proposals. The following is a summary of the anticipated presentation.

---

### **General Fund Budget Request**

---

Transformation of the Vermont State Colleges System is ongoing with multiple processes occurring simultaneously including the critical work of the *Select Committee on the Future of Public Higher Education in Vermont*. We are completing this process in a transparent, fiscally responsible, and thoughtful manner that enables us to continue fulfilling our mission, for the benefit of Vermont.

The Chancellor's Office and member institutions of the VSCS have already launched a number of initiatives to contain costs, to function as a more consolidated system, and to better meet the workforce needs of the state's employers. A few of these efforts include:

- Establishing a system-wide budgeting process;
- Developing system-wide website of online and remote course listings so that students can more easily identify programs that fit their needs;
- Reducing competition and increasing collaboration in admissions and financial aid awards;
- Expanding a successful virtual library model to serve the entire system;
- Analyzing our expensive software needs to ensure we are getting our return on investment; and
- Identifying further opportunities for program collaboration across the system.

As we continue this internal work in the coming months, we look to the direction given to us by the Board of Trustees, the Governor and the Select Committee for recommendations to address our structural and pandemic related deficit. As noted in previous meetings our anticipated budget gap is between \$42 and \$47 million. This is a conservative number and collaboratively the VSCS is working to reduce it, but the pandemic has created tremendous uncertainty as to anticipated enrollment next fall.

At its meetings with the Administration, the Vermont State Colleges System proposed a level-funded base budget, and 1%, 2%, and 3% higher base spending, or about \$300,000 per percentage, for aid dedicated for low income Vermonters in accordance with instructions provided by the Administration. In addition, the VSCS requested \$45 million in a second year of bridge funding to address the anticipated FY2022 budget gap so that we may continue our shared work to transform the Vermont State Colleges System to best serve Vermont and Vermonters.

---

## **Capital Bill**

---

The Vermont State Colleges System proposed four projects for the upcoming biennium. These projects included \$4 million for deferred maintenance and safety projects, \$10 million for system transformation, \$3.5 million for major maintenance, and \$4.5 million for energy conservation efforts. Brief descriptions of each project are shared below:

**Deferred Maintenance and Safety:** For the last five years the VSCS has received between \$2 and \$3 million annually from the Capital Bill to fund deferred maintenance and safety projects for the institutions. The VSCS requested \$4 million, consistent with previous requests, to fund this extremely important work.

**System Transformation:** Transformation of the Vermont State Colleges System is in large part dependent upon the work of the *Select Committee on the Future of Public Higher Education in Vermont*, the legislature, and the Governor. While their work is currently in process, we recognize that transformation will require modification of our facilities as well as our teaching and learning activities. Although the specifics of this work are unknown at this time, we know that money will be required to address the overbuilding of some facilities, the re-purposing of other buildings, and the conversion of still others to new uses.

**Major Maintenance:** Preliminary information from the National Center for Higher Education Management System (NCHEMS), the consultant working with the Select Committee, clearly documents the underfunding of deferred maintenance and major maintenance efforts. Creation of a pool of funding to support instantaneous major maintenance activities across the Vermont State Colleges System, such as: responding to a burst pipe in the middle of the night, a failed heating coil, and water main break is necessary for the successful stewardship of the VSCS' facilities and to prevent costly emergency repairs.

**Energy Conservation:** The Vermont State Colleges spends nearly \$6,000,000 annually on utilities, of which the majority is for electricity and heat. The VSCS proposes an overarching project comprised of several initiatives to reduce the VSCS' consumption of energy to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and its ongoing annual costs.



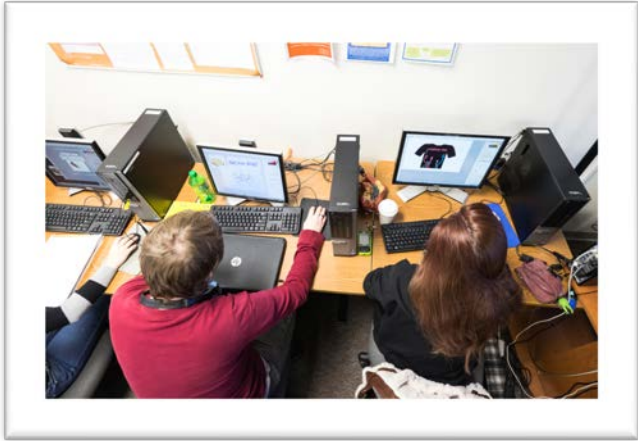
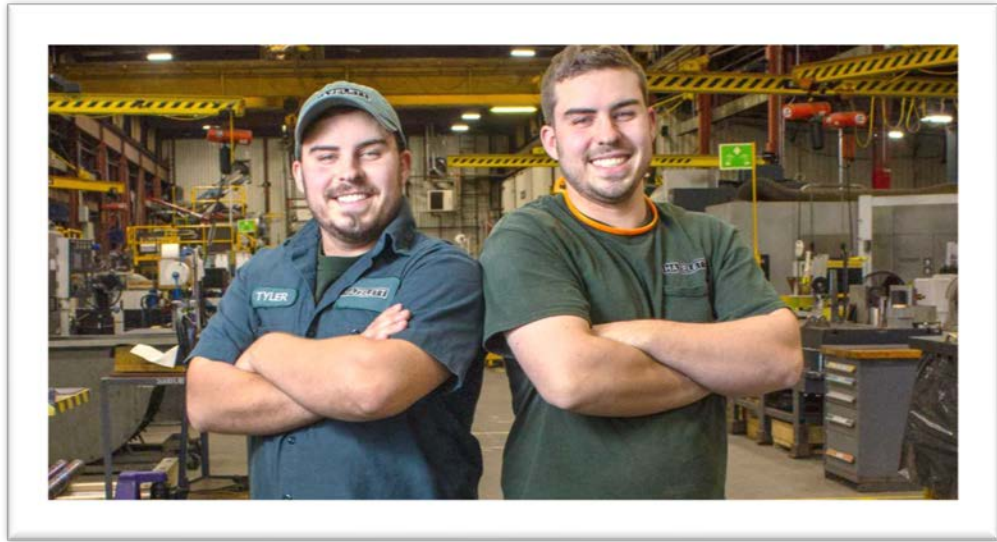
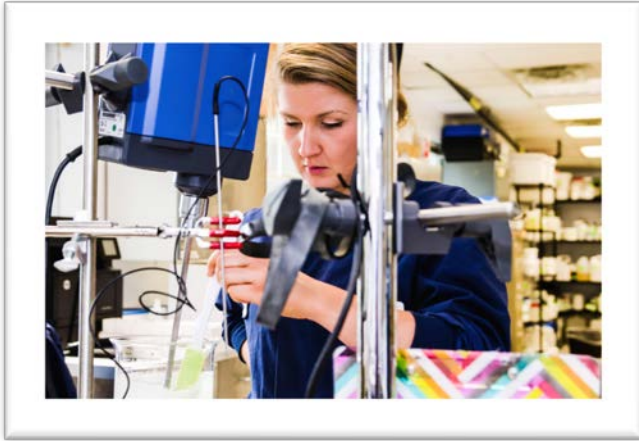
# Vermont State Colleges System

*for the benefit of Vermont*

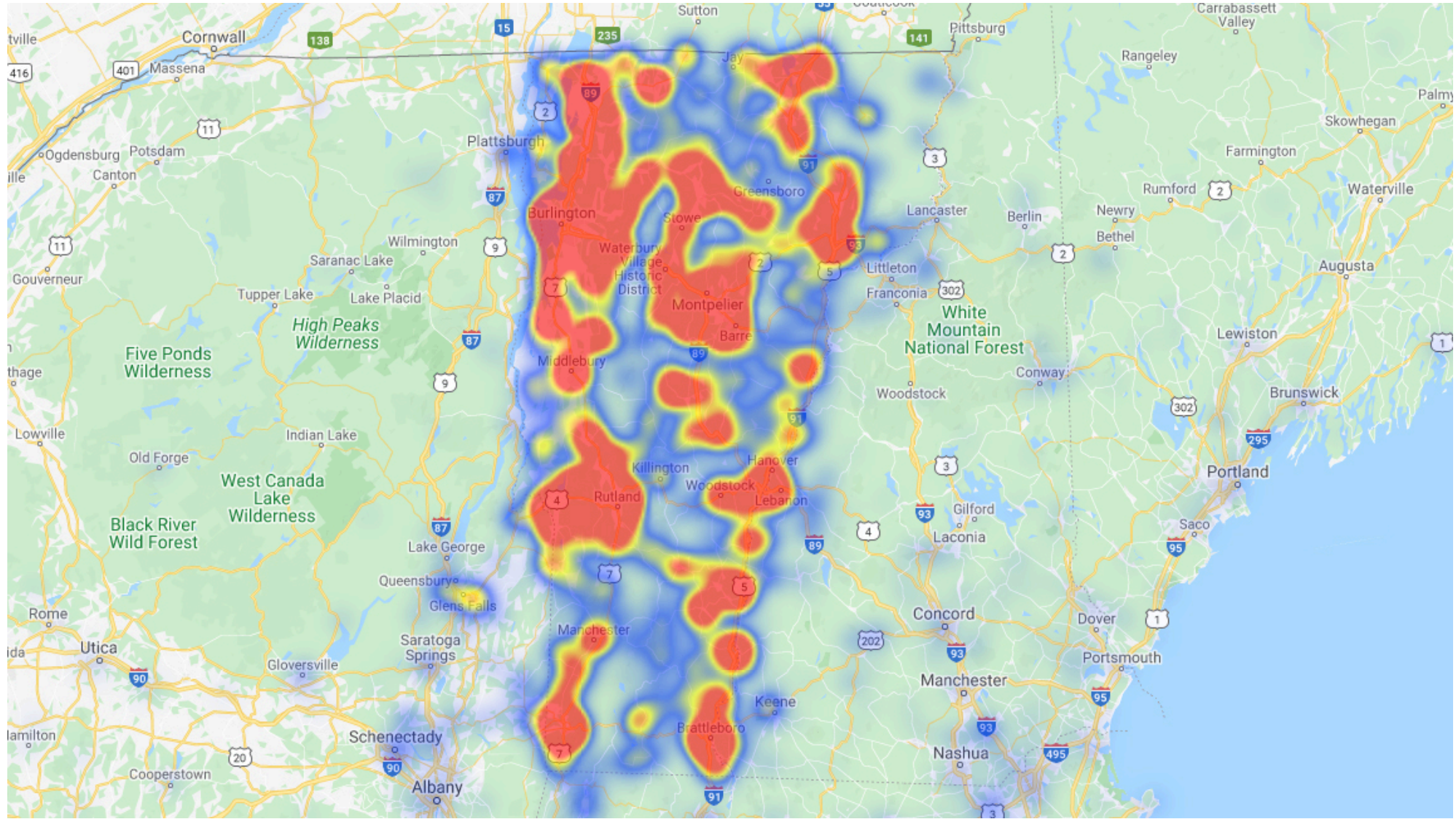
*For the benefit of Vermont*



# We are committed to Vermont



*For the benefit of Vermont*



*For the benefit of Vermont*

# What 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Means to Me

*"Being a first-generation student shows strength, resilience, and drive. At NVU-Johnson, I was able to find mentorship through staff and faculty to learn my strengths and create my own path to success. **Being first-generation means you may have to work while attending school, and you may have to face daunting tasks like completing the FAFSA on your own.** You've got this. There are so many helpful faces on campus, and alumni, such as myself, are always willing to lend a hand for guidance or mentorship. If I could do it, so can you!"*

*I have been working in ICU and general practice as a veterinary assistant in the Burlington area since graduating in 2019. I was recently accepted into veterinary school and will begin in fall 2021 to pursue my Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree."*

~ Jessica Malskis



*For the benefit of Vermont*

# Veterans

Sean Connolly served in the Army on an anti-terrorism team whose focus was to respond to future terror attacks on our country. After Sean's service with the Army ended at the age of 30, he enrolled at CCV and completed his degree at Vermont Tech.

*“I found the transition from the Army to being a college student challenging. There are many cultural differences between the two but my ability to adapt to changing environments lessened the difficulty of the transition.”*

*“I found profound satisfaction from serving in the Army and for the Department of Homeland Security. I plan to use my degree to further myself in the federal workforce and continue to serve the country. The skills and knowledge I will gain from Vermont Tech will prove to set me apart from my peers.”*

*“Vermont Tech is a military friendly place and has an overwhelming feeling of a close-knit community.”*



# Adult Learners

Jeff Patterson graduated from CCV in 2017 with a degree in STEM Studies. Today, he's a critical care flight paramedic for the University of Vermont Health Network's Critical Care Transport team.

*"[My degree] was something that I had been working on and self-conscious about in this industry...it's always hard to admit when you didn't have a degree. Now I don't have to do that, and I'll continue to work toward my bachelor's and possibly master's after this."*

*"The best thing about my job is I get to help people," Patterson says. "I've wanted to be involved in the flight medicine aspect since I joined EMS in 1998. It's a continual challenge, there's always new things to learn, new diseases, as we're seeing now with coronavirus."*



# Vermonters from rural communities

Rachael Burt came to Vermont Tech from an extremely small town. She admits that when she first came to college, she felt some trepidation. **Others who had left her hometown had suggested higher education would be overwhelming and exhausting**, but Rachael quickly learned that this was not the case.

*“When I finally got here and started, I knew that it was just a small, sometimes difficult, step to the rest of my life.”*

She came to college to get a degree and a job in a field that she loves, Dairy Farm Management. She heard about Vermont Tech’s 2+2 program from a friend who had recently graduated and knew it was a perfect match.

*“I could get the hands-on experience and the intense classroom experience that I needed to penetrate the Agricultural Industry.”*



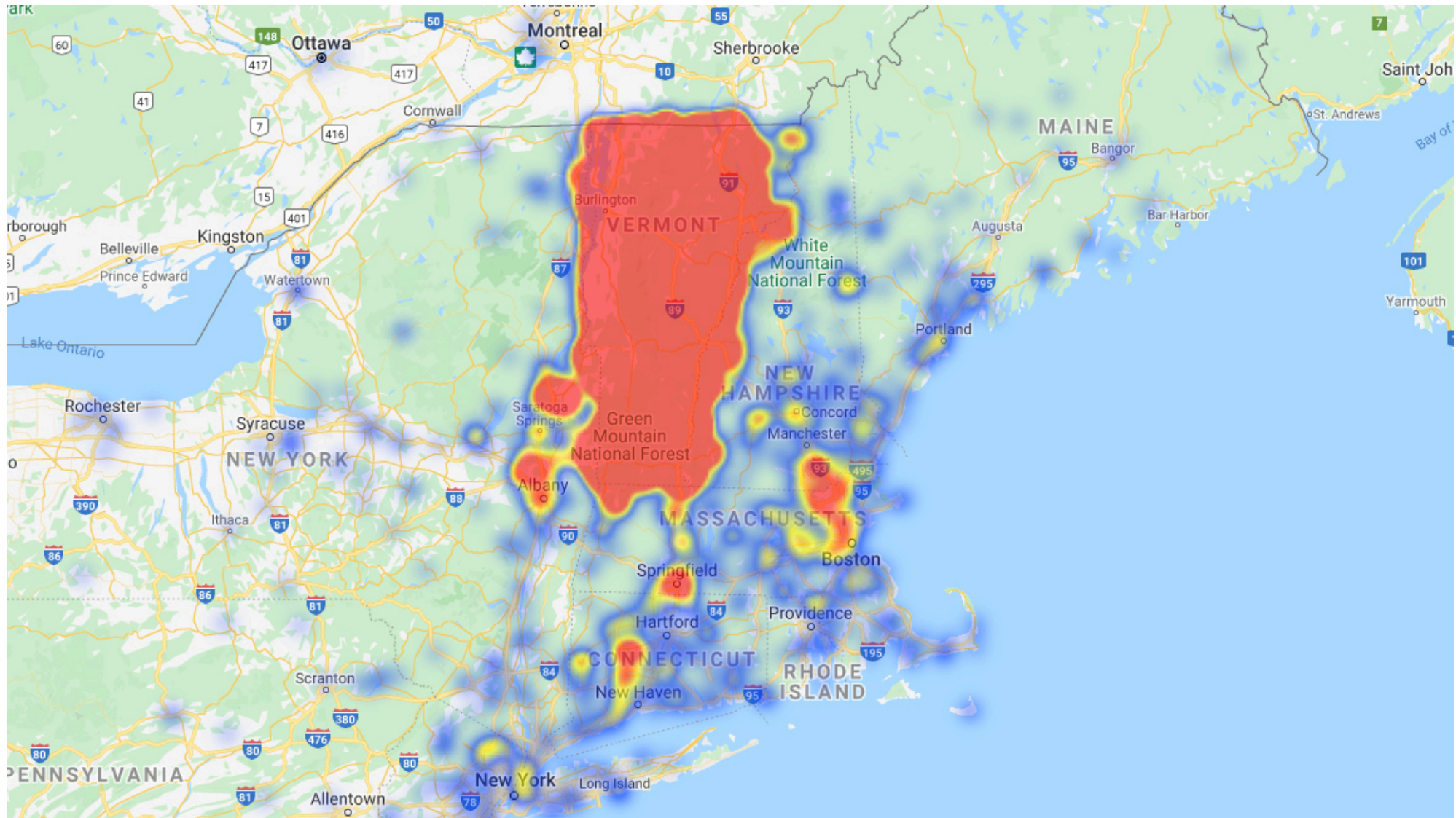
# Vermonters who need a second chance

Kyle Wolfe refuses to let his past dictate his future. In 2007, he was trying to figure out what he wanted to do with his life. **He took two classes at CCV but failed both due to his substance use disorder and criminal deviance.** After years of substance abuse and a 30-day incarceration, he came into recovery in 2015 with help from the federal government.

*“It was more humanizing than my addiction...it’s what I needed,”* Kyle said about the time he served.

Since then, **Kyle has used his experiences as motivation to get an education and help others.** He graduated from CCV at the end of summer 2020 with an associate degree in Human Services and is currently a full-time student at Castleton where he’s pursuing a degree in Social Work.





*For the benefit of Vermont*



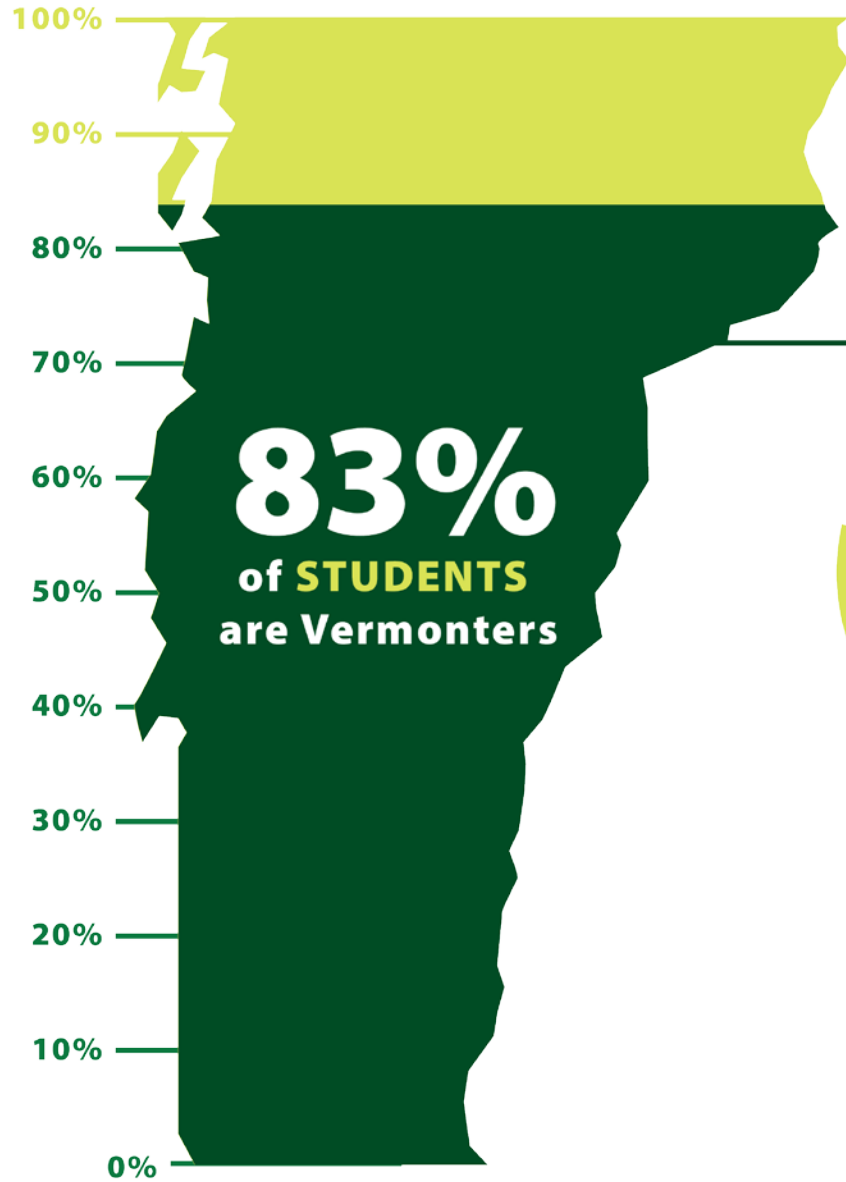
Graduated 1,805 Vermonters into the workforce in 2020 with degrees or certificates



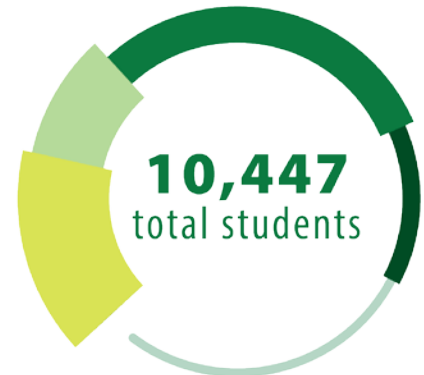
**3,299** 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Vermonters are enrolled in our undergraduate programs this fall.



That's 57% of undergraduate Vermonters and 45% of all undergraduates.



**2/3** of alumni live and work in Vermont



- 1,317 High school students enrolled in VSCS programs
- 3,299 1<sup>st</sup> gen Vermont undergrads
- 5,766 Undergraduate Vermonters
- 7,264 Undergraduates
- 10,447 Total students

*For the benefit of Vermont*



# Current Challenges

Demographics

Market Challenges

Declining Enrollment

COVID-19

Budget Deficit



*Transformation*

*For the benefit of Vermont*

# Strategic Priorities



*For the benefit of Vermont*

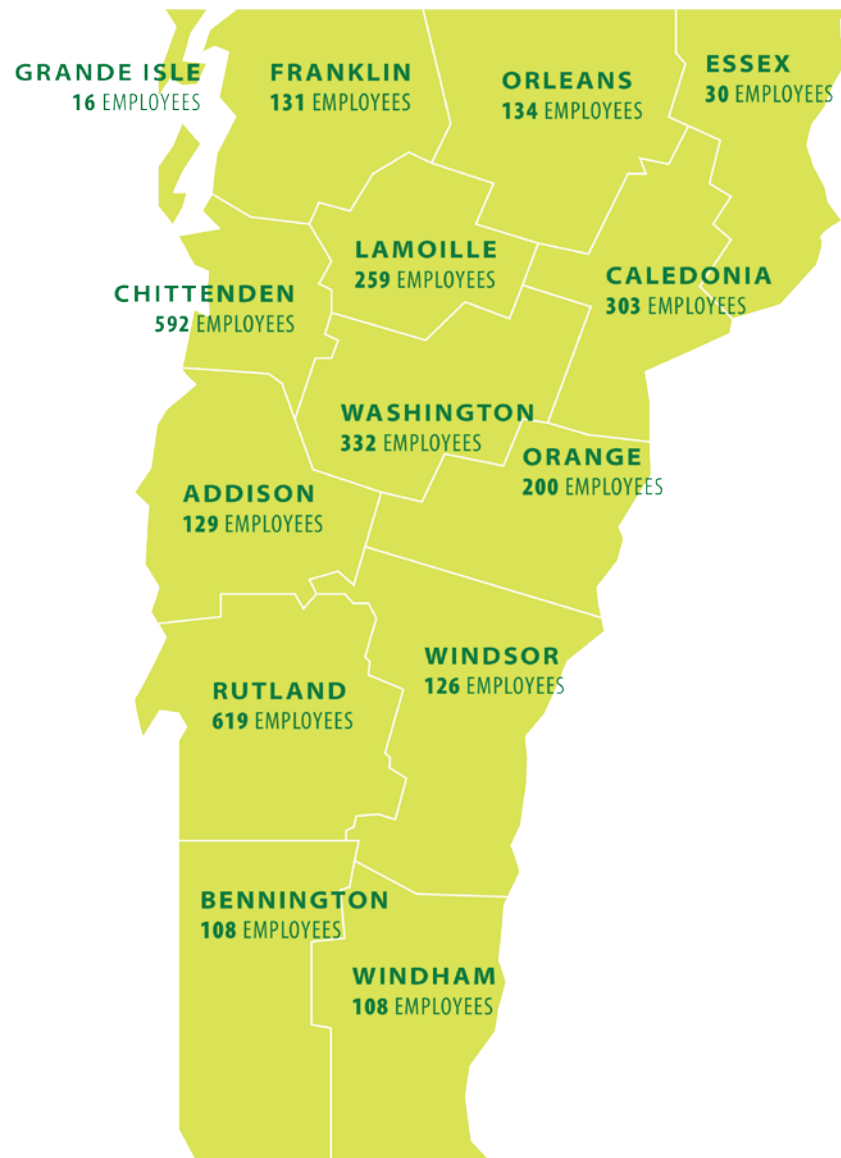
# Governor's Priorities



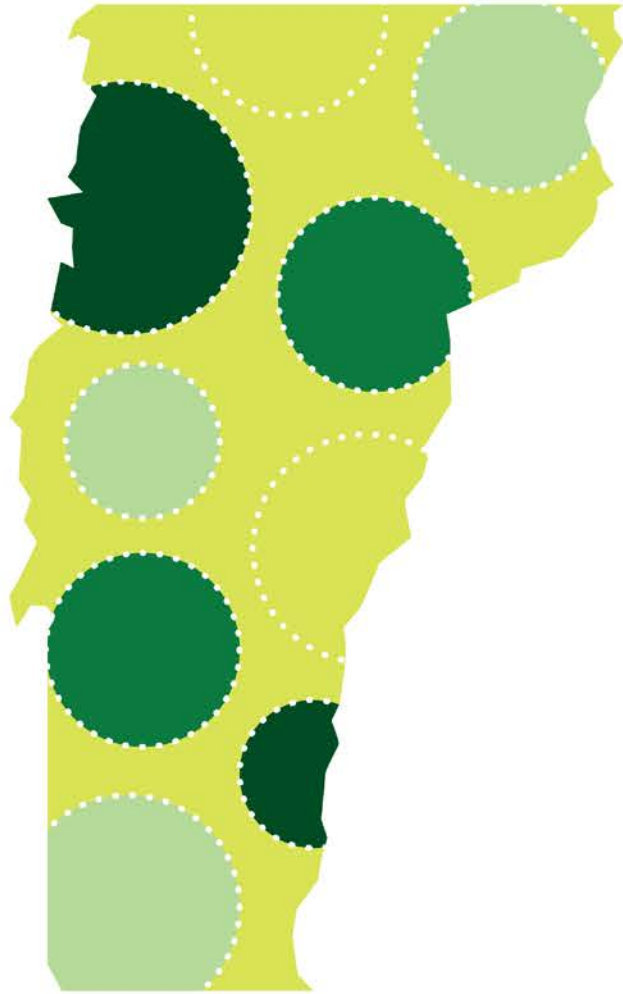
*For the benefit of Vermont*

# The VSCS

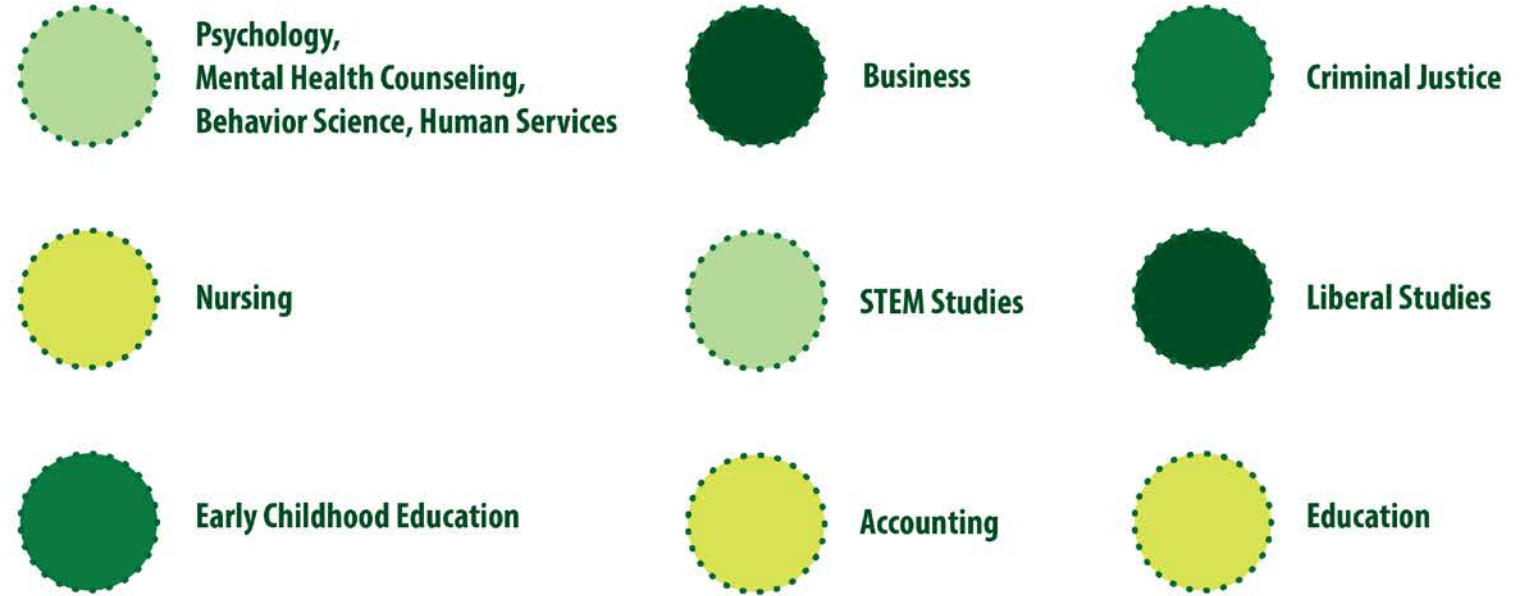
employs **3,087** Vermonters



*For the benefit of Vermont*



# Top Enrolled Programs Align with Vermont's Workforce Needs



*For the benefit of Vermont*

# VSCS Transformation

- System-wide budget
- VSCS website of online and remote course listings
- Reducing competition and increasing collaboration in admissions and financial aid awards
- Expanding a successful virtual library model to serve the entire system
- Analyzing our expensive software needs
- Identifying opportunities for program collaboration across the system



*For the benefit of Vermont*

# FY2022 Budget Request

# FY2022 Budget Request

- Level-funded base appropriation
- Lower-income financial aid proposal for the contingent 1%, 2%, and 3% higher base spending levels
- \$45 million in a second year of bridge funding to address the anticipated FY2022 budget gap



**TOGETHER**



*For the benefit of Vermont*





## **AY2021-2022 Tuition & Fees Recommendation**

Setting tuition, fees, room, and board for AY2021-2022 is a difficult decision that must be made in the context of the VSCS budget, the strategic priorities of the Vermont State Colleges System, the work of the *Select Committee on the Future of Public Higher Education in Vermont*, regional competition, and the national discourse regarding tuition setting during the pandemic. Therefore the Chancellor recommends freezing tuition while raising room, board and mandatory fees by 3%. Background information is supplied in the subsequent pages.

### FY2022 VSCS Budget

The Vermont State Colleges System estimated a preliminary budget deficit of between \$42 and \$47 million for FY2022. The estimate was based on a number of assumptions including:

- Tuition, Fees, Room and Board will not be raised for AY2021-2022
- Employees will receive contracted for salary raises as set forth in their collective bargaining agreements
- The smaller entering class in fall 2020 will continue to impact total enrollment numbers across the VSCS for several years into the future.

A 3% increase in tuition, fees, room, and board would improve the bottom-line between by about \$2.9 million. However, both CU and NVU have already announced tuition freezes for the next fiscal year, therefore, the actual improvement is closer to \$1.4 million system-wide.

<b>FY2022E Comparison</b>							
<b>All Estimates use FY2021 Budget as Foundation</b>							
(Amounts rounded to \$1,000)							
	FY2021 Budget	3% Increases <sup>1</sup>		Recommendation		Full Freeze	
		FY2022E Fall 19 Base	FY2022E Fall 20 Base	FY2022E Fall 19 Base	FY2022E Fall 20 Base	FY2022E Fall 19 Base	FY2022E Fall 20 Base
<b>REVENUES</b>							
Tuition and Fees	102,520	99,947	95,508	97,036	92,726	97,036	92,726
State Appropriation	60,237	31,437	31,437	31,437	31,437	31,437	31,437
Room and Board	11,905	11,328	10,596	11,328	10,596	10,998	10,287
Sales and Services	1,841	1,878	1,878	1,878	1,878	1,878	1,878
Gifts	850	850	850	850	850	850	850
Other Revenue	692	706	706	706	706	706	706
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	178,045	146,146	140,975	143,235	138,193	142,905	137,885
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Salaries and Benefits	110,496	114,363	114,363	114,363	114,363	114,363	114,363
Services, Supplies, Travel	37,116	37,859	37,859	37,859	37,859	37,859	37,859
Scholarships	19,240	19,817	19,817	19,817	19,817	19,240	19,240
Utilities	5,955	6,253	6,253	6,253	6,253	6,253	6,253
Other Expenses	4,827	4,575	4,575	4,575	4,575	4,575	4,575
Debt Service	6,000	8,776	8,776	8,776	8,776	8,776	8,776
Other Transfers	(5,958)	(5,958)	(5,958)	(5,958)	(5,958)	(5,958)	(5,958)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	176,019	185,685	185,685	185,685	185,685	185,108	185,108
<b>NET REVENUES/(DEFICIT)</b>	2,026	(39,539)	(44,710)	(42,450)	(47,492)	(42,203)	(47,223)
<b>Net Revenue w/o CRF/Bridge</b>	(28,408)	(39,539)	(44,710)	(42,450)	(47,492)	(42,203)	(47,223)

<sup>1</sup> Results are overstated by \$1.55M - 1.67M because CU and NVU have already published tuition rates for AY2021-2022. Revised performance for this alternative is within \$1-2M of original estimate at a deficit of \$41.1M - \$46.4M

---

### **Strategic Priorities of the Vermont State Colleges**

---

Recently the Vermont State Colleges system adopted a series of strategic priorities. A critical priority is reducing the cost of attendance for students and families. The system has committed, in the short term, to reducing the cost of attendance through lowering the cost of textbooks and ancillary materials, improving on-time graduation rates, and increasing average class sizes.

In addition to these important action steps; affordability for students is largely driven by the cost of tuition. Tuition is driven by two main inputs: the cost of doing business (labor, supplies, services, utilities, debt service) and the volume of state appropriation. With historically small increases in the state appropriation, and substantial fixed costs, the VSCS was forced to balance its budget by passing its costs onto students through increases to tuition, fees, room, and board. While many cost containment measures were put in place, the structure of the VSCS and the demographic challenges have resulted in increasing costs to students.

It is no longer acceptable to continue to raise tuition as the market cannot bear further increases. Instead, transformation is necessary. Transformation that reduces the cost of operating the Vermont State Colleges System as a whole, as well as transformation in the amount of funding received from the state.

---

### **Select Committee on the Future of Public Higher Education in Vermont**

---

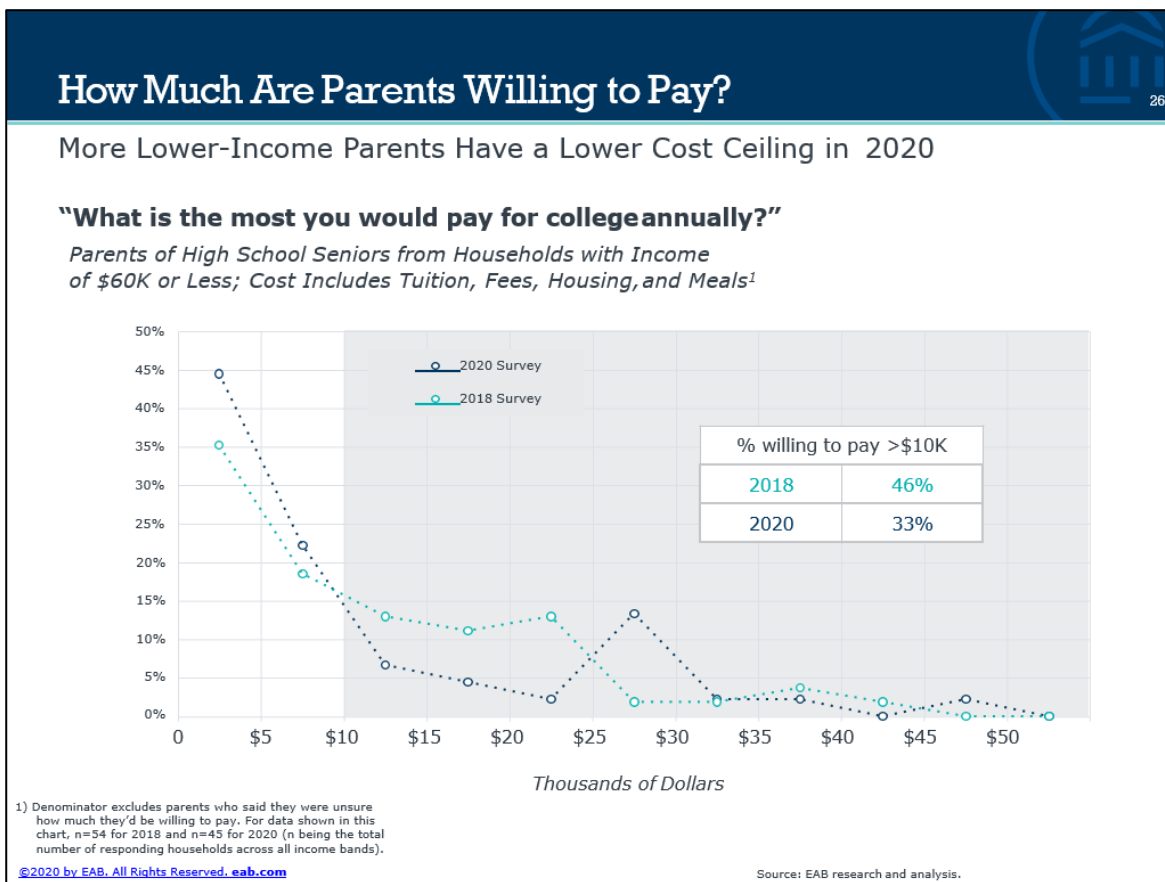
The *Select Committee on the Future of Public Higher Education in Vermont* was charged with “addressing the urgent needs of the Vermont State Colleges (VSC) and developing an integrated vision and plan for a high-quality, affordable, and workforce-connected future for higher education in Vermont” and to offer recommendations regarding “the financial sustainability of the VSC system” as judged through the lens of having “impact on institutional capacity to innovate and meet State goals and learners’ needs.” This charge is consistent with the strategic priorities outlined by the Board of Trustees.

*Select Committee* discussions over the last several months have clearly highlighted that affordability is a serious barrier to student access and success, especially among students who are most in need. Their first report, scheduled for December 4 is expected to address a portion of the equation – cost reduction, as well as minimization of tuition increases.

## Regional and National Enrollment Context

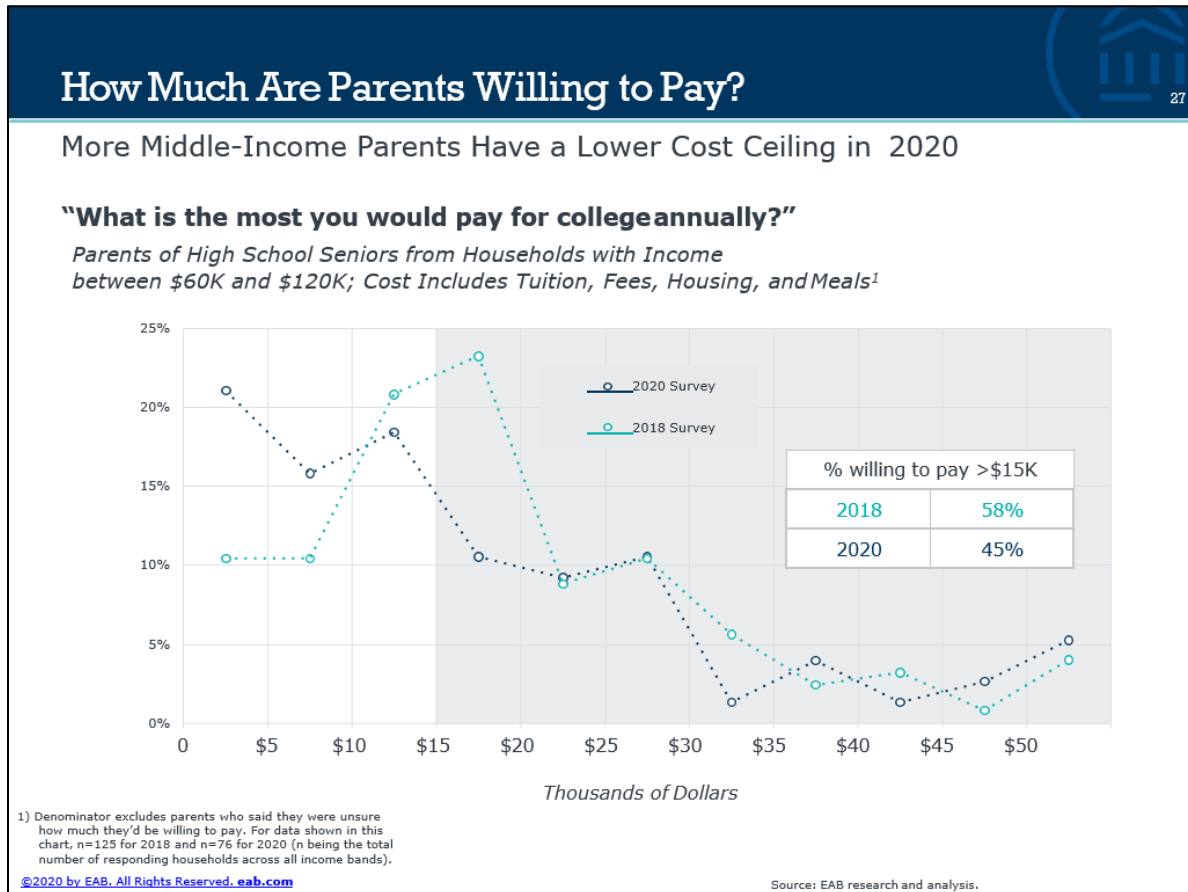
Predicting enrollment for AY2021-2022 is extraordinarily difficult. Factors such as job losses, market uncertainty, continuation of the pandemic, switch to remote learning for K-12 schools, and price compression are all playing a factor into enrollment predictions.

Recently the Educational Advisory Board (EAB) conducted a survey of lower-income parents to assess how much they would be willing to pay for their student’s education. The results show that households earning \$60,000 or less annually are less willing to pay more than \$10,000 a year for their student’s education than they were in 2018. In 2018, 46% of families in this category were willing to pay more than \$10,000 a year, now only 33% are willing to do so.



Source: EAB

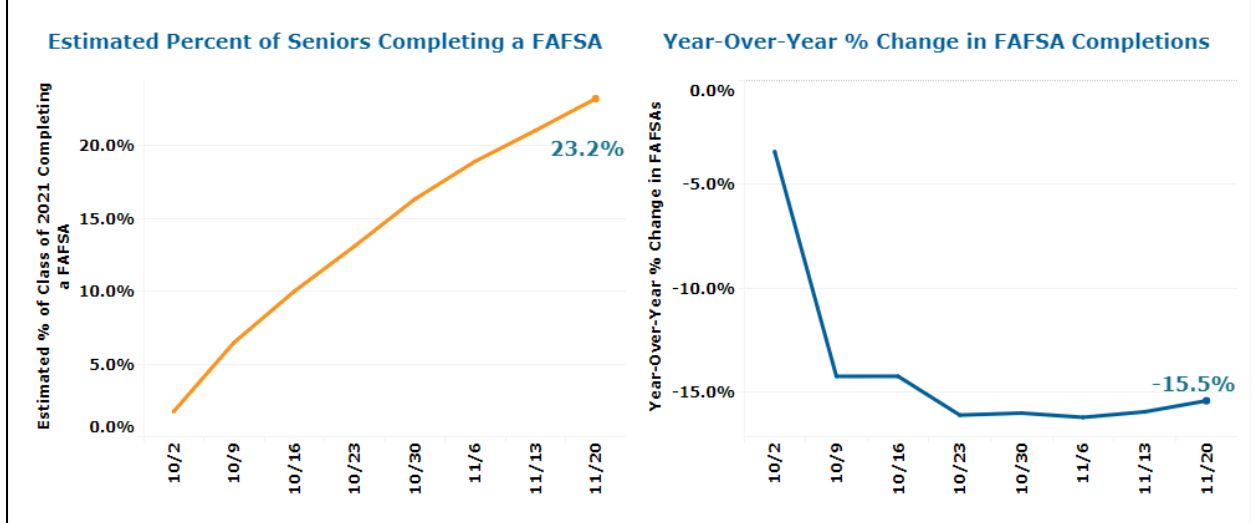
Even for higher income households, families are less willing to pay more than \$10,000 annually today than they were in 2018. Again, according to EAB, only 45% of families are willing to pay more than \$10,000 annually versus 58% in 2018. This large drop will have an impact on the VSCS' ability to attract and retain students.



Source: EAB

According to Public Tableau, a FAFSA tracker site, FAFSA filing is down 15.5% nationally. “FAFSA completion is a strong indicator of postsecondary enrollment, so we should carefully monitor FAFSA renewal as a predictor of emerging fall enrollment trends.”<sup>1</sup>

Through **November 20, 2020**, **23.2%** of the high school class of 2021 has completed a FAFSA. There have been **874,960** completions nationally, a **-15.5%** change compared to last academic year.



Source: <https://public.tableau.com/profile/bill.debaun.national.college.access.network#!/vizhome/FormYourFutureFAFSATracker/HomePage>

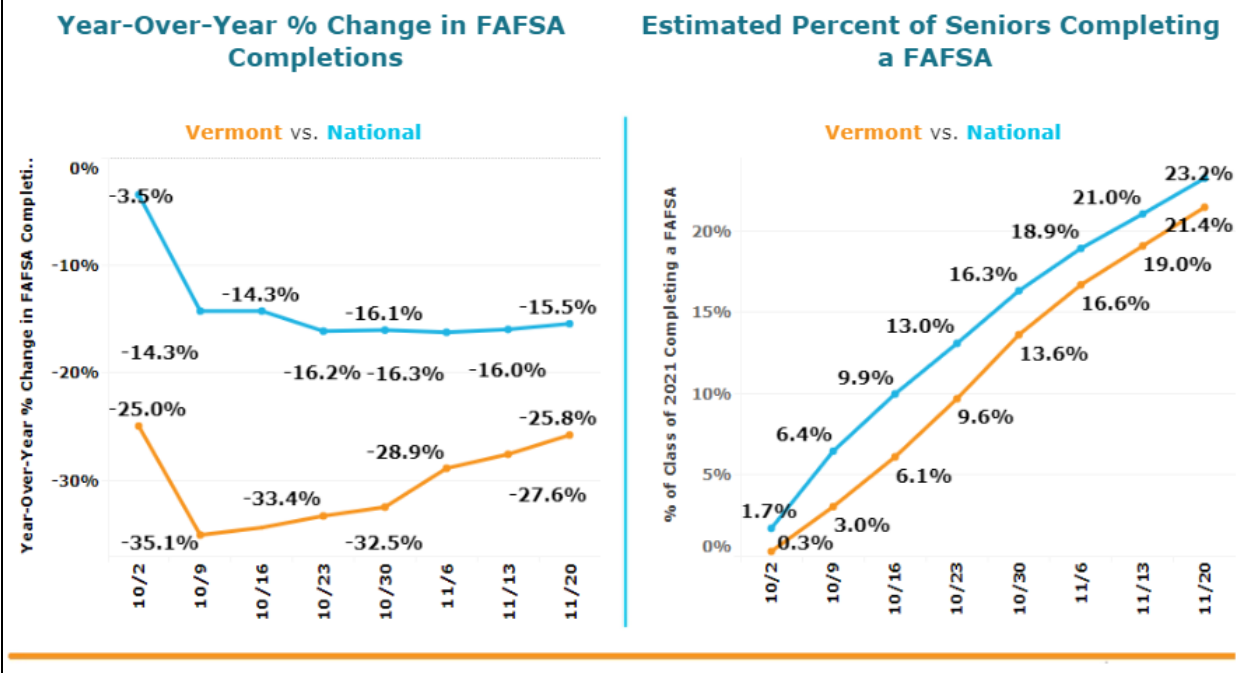
More worrisome is the rate of FAFSA completion for Vermont. While the national average decline is 15.5%, as of November 20, Vermont’s decline is 25.8%. Further, only 21.4% of high school seniors have filed a FAFSA as compared to the national average of 23.2%. Combined, these two leading indicators are concerning as these declines in FAFSA filers are consistent with early indicators we are seeing in our enrollment.

The institutions are closely monitoring the FAFSA filings and conducting outreach to prospective students to increase the rate of filing.

<sup>1</sup> “Steep Decline in FAFSA Renewals” Inside Higher Ed, May 7, 2020

### State Profile: Vermont

Through **November 20, 2020**, **21.4%** of the high school class of 2021 in Vermont has completed a FAFSA. There have been **1,441** completions in Vermont, a **-25.8%** change compared to last academic year.



<https://public.tableau.com/profile/bill.debaun.national.college.access.network#!/vizhome/FormYourFutureFAFSATracker/StateProfile>

Several leading indicators such as the number of FAFSA filers year-over-year, the rate of attendance for virtual events, and other factors makes predicting future enrollment extremely difficult especially when compared against pricing pressure from neighboring states such as Maine and New Hampshire where Vermont students are offered in-state pricing to attend their public institutions.

### Regional and National Trends in Tuition Setting for AY2021-2022

Nationally, many public higher education institutions have elected to freeze tuition for AY2020-2021 and AY2021-2022. For those institutions setting tuition in late spring 2020, they cited the “economic conditions prompted by the Covid-19 pandemic”<sup>2</sup> and affordability as key factors. For example saying “One of the University System of Georgia’s top priorities is affordability, and that has never been more important now for our students and their families.”<sup>3</sup> Closer to

<sup>2</sup> Tennessee Board of Regents “No tuition or fee increase for students in Tennessee’s community & technical colleges for Academic Year 2020-21”

<sup>3</sup> “Board of Regents approves no tuition increase for 2020-2021 academic year”

home, the University of Vermont approved a tuition freeze for the 2020-2021 academic year stating “The relentless rise in tuition over the last several decades has placed an unsustainable burden on students and their families. Our board is fully supportive of this objective as it will immediately reduce this burden and sends an important signal that the university is committed to affordability and accessibility.”<sup>4</sup> Their president has recommended a second year of tuition freeze. In a recent Burlington Free Press article “Garimella cited the school’s commitment to maintain “affordability and accessibility” for students and families, as well as the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as major reasons behind making the recommendation.”<sup>5</sup>

It is clear that both nationally and regionally many public institutions are taking the difficult step to freeze tuition and fees, and in many instances freeze room and board as well as a response to the economic conditions resulting from COVID-19. Additionally, these decisions are being made in the context of affordability and accessibility of programs.

---

### **AY2021-2022 Tuition Recommendation**

---

Chancellor Zdatny recommends a freeze on tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year. This is an opportunity cost of approximately \$1.4 million (due to freezes already in place for Northern Vermont University and Castleton University). While the loss of additional revenue will be felt keenly by both the Community College of Vermont and Vermont Technical College (approximately \$700,000 each) it is important to make this decision in the context of the strategic priorities of the Vermont State Colleges, what our students are willing and able to pay, and the regional and national discourse regarding college affordability and tuition.

While making this recommendation is difficult, it is an important and meaningful step in making post-secondary education more affordable.

---

<sup>4</sup> “University of Vermont plans to freeze its tuition for 2020-21. How does its costs compare to other public universities” Burlington Free Press, November 17, 2019

<sup>5</sup> “UVM president recommends second year of tuition freeze” Burlington Free Press, October 26, 2020



## **Resolution 2020-021: AY2021-2022 Tuition**

VERMONT STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
RESOLUTION 2020-021

AY2021-2022 Tuition Freeze

- WHEREAS, The Chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges is recommending a Tuition Freeze for the 2021-2022 Academic Year at the December 7, 2020 meeting of the Finance and Facilities Committee, and
- WHEREAS, The Finance and Facilities Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed the recommendation of the Chancellor, and
- WHEREAS, The Finance and Facilities Committee has discussed individual aspects of the proposal with the Chancellor and the Presidents of the individual institutions, and
- WHEREAS, The Finance and Facilities Committee recommends a Tuition Freeze for the 2021-2022 Academic Year as proposed by the Chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges System hereby approves a Tuition Freeze for the 2021-2022 Academic Year.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Lynn Dickinson, Chair of the Board of Trustees



## **AY2021-2022 Tuition Tables**

# **AY2021-2022 TUITION, FEES, ROOM, BOARD**

## ***FINANCIAL COMPARISON***

## FY2022E Comparision

### All Estimates use FY2021 Budget as Foundation

(Amounts rounded to \$1,000)

	FY2021 Budget	3% Increases <sup>1</sup>		Recommendation		Full Freeze	
		FY2022E Fall 19 Base	FY2022E Fall 20 Base	FY2022E Fall 19 Base	FY2022E Fall 20 Base	FY2022E Fall 19 Base	FY2022E Fall 20 Base
<b>REVENUES</b>							
Tuition and Fees	102,520	99,947	95,508	97,036	92,726	97,036	92,726
State Appropriation	60,237	31,437	31,437	31,437	31,437	31,437	31,437
Room and Board	11,905	11,328	10,596	11,328	10,596	10,998	10,287
Sales and Services	1,841	1,878	1,878	1,878	1,878	1,878	1,878
Gifts	850	850	850	850	850	850	850
Other Revenue	692	706	706	706	706	706	706
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>178,045</b>	<b>146,146</b>	<b>140,975</b>	<b>143,235</b>	<b>138,193</b>	<b>142,905</b>	<b>137,885</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Salaries and Benefits	110,496	114,363	114,363	114,363	114,363	114,363	114,363
Services, Supplies, Travel	37,116	37,859	37,859	37,859	37,859	37,859	37,859
Scholarships	19,240	19,817	19,817	19,817	19,817	19,240	19,240
Utilities	5,955	6,253	6,253	6,253	6,253	6,253	6,253
Other Expenses	4,827	4,575	4,575	4,575	4,575	4,575	4,575
Debt Service	6,000	8,776	8,776	8,776	8,776	8,776	8,776
Other Transfers	(5,958)	(5,958)	(5,958)	(5,958)	(5,958)	(5,958)	(5,958)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>176,019</b>	<b>185,685</b>	<b>185,685</b>	<b>185,685</b>	<b>185,685</b>	<b>185,108</b>	<b>185,108</b>
			-		-		-
<b>NET REVENUES/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>2,026</b>	<b>(39,539)</b>	<b>(44,710)</b>	<b>(42,450)</b>	<b>(47,492)</b>	<b>(42,203)</b>	<b>(47,223)</b>
<b>Net Revenue w/o CRF/Bridge</b>	<b>(28,408)</b>	<b>(39,539)</b>	<b>(44,710)</b>	<b>(42,450)</b>	<b>(47,492)</b>	<b>(42,203)</b>	<b>(47,223)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Results are overstated by \$1.55M - 1.67M because CU and NVU have already published tuition rates for AY2021-2022. Revised performance for this alternative is within \$1-2M of original estimate at a deficit of \$41.1M - \$46.4M

**AY2021-2022 TUITION, FEES, ROOM, BOARD  
CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION  
*TUITION FREEZE***

**VERMONT STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM**  
**DRAFT FY2022 Tuition, Fees, Room & Board**  
**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: TUITION FREEZE**  
Maximum Full Time Undergraduate Tuition

	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>FY2021</u>
<b><u>CCV (per credit hour)</u></b>				
Vermonters	280	0	0.0%	280
Non-Vermonters	560	0	0.0%	560
<b><u>Castleton University</u></b>				
<b><u>Regular programs</u></b>				
Vermonters	11,832	0	0.0%	11,832
Non-Vermonters	28,800	0	0.0%	28,800
<b><u>Nursing</u></b>				
Vermonters	15,456	0	0.0%	15,456
Non-Vermonters	28,800	0	0.0%	28,800
<b><u>Northern Vermont University</u></b>				
Vermonters	11,592	0	0.0%	11,592
Non-Vermonters	25,680	0	0.0%	25,680
<b><u>Vermont Technical College</u></b>				
<b><u>Regular programs</u></b>				
Vermonters	14,712	0	0.0%	14,712
Non-Vermonters	28,128	0	0.0%	28,128
International	32,352	0	0.0%	32,352
<b><u>Dental Hygiene</u></b>				
Vermonters	18,432	0	0.0%	18,432
Non-Vermonters	28,824	0	0.0%	28,824
International	33,048	0	0.0%	33,048
<b><u>Nursing</u></b>				
Vermonters	15,432	0	0.0%	15,432
Non-Vermonters	32,592	0	0.0%	32,592
International	36,816	0	0.0%	36,816

**Notes**

1. Per credit rates are full time divided by 24, unless otherwise noted.
2. Non-Vermonters includes students who do not meet VT residency requirements, except for those in special programs with individually identified rates.
3. New England Board of Higher Education Board (NEBHE) rate is 150% of Vermonters rate (except CCV, for which the NEBHE rate equals the Vermonters rate, and for NVU, for which the NEBHE rate equals the Non-Vermonters rate minus \$6,500).
4. Credits in excess of 18 (19 for VTC, or 12 for NVU online programs) per term will be charged at the per credit rate.
5. Summer rates are billed per credit and billed at the course college rate.

**VERMONT STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM**  
**DRAFT FY2022 Tuition, Fees, Room & Board**  
**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: TUITION FREEZE**  
**Maximum Per-Credit Graduate Tuition**

	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>FY2021</u>
<b><u>Castleton University</u></b>				
Vermonters	847	0	0.0%	847
Non-Vermonters	847	0	0.0%	847
<b><u>Northern Vermont University</u></b>				
Vermonters	629	0	0.0%	629
Non-Vermonters	916	0	0.0%	916
<b><u>Vermont Technical College</u></b>				
Vermonters	745	0	0.0%	745
Non-Vermonters	1,425	0	0.0%	1,425
International	1,637	0	0.0%	1,637

**Notes**

1. Non-Vermonters includes students who do not meet VT residency requirements, except for those in special programs with individually identified rates.
2. New England Board of Higher Education Board (NEBHE) rate is 150% of Vermonters rate.
3. Summer rates are billed per credit and billed at the college rate.

**VERMONT STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM**  
**DRAFT FY2022 Tuition, Fees, Room & Board**  
**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: TUITION FREEZE**  
**Fees, Room & Board**

	Proposed FY2022	\$ Change	% Change	FY2021
<b><u>Individual Service Fees:</u></b>				
<b><u>Set by Board</u></b>				
Application	55	0	0.0% all	55
Graduation	125	0	0.0% all	125
Student Activity Fee	317	9	3.0% /yr	308
Facilities Fee	931	27	3.0% /yr	904
<b><u>Set by Colleges</u></b>				
Orientation/Basic Skills Testing/Assessment				
Course Fees				
Partial Payment				
Penalty Fees				
			(can be adjusted for inflation as necessary)	
<b><u>Room Rates:</u></b>				
Double Room	7,313	213	3.0% /yr	7,100
Premium for a Single Room	1,916	56	3.0% /yr	1,860
Reduction for Tripling	(1,545)	(45)	3.0% /yr	(1,500)
Single Room Suite	10,094	294	3.0% /yr	9,800
<b><u>Board Rates:</u></b>				
Gold Plan/unlimited meals with \$100	4,732	138	3.0% /yr	4,594
Base plan/12 meals/wk with \$150/yr	4,559	133	3.0% /yr	4,426
8 meals/wk with \$220/yr in DB	4,380	128	3.0% /yr	4,252

**AY2021-2022 TUITION, FEES, ROOM, BOARD  
BASELINE APPROACH**

***3% INCREASE: TUITION, FEES, ROOM, BOARD***

**VERMONT STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM**  
**DRAFT FY2022 Tuition, Fees, Room & Board**  
**3% Increase: Tuition Fees, Room, Board**  
**Maximum Full Time Undergraduate Tuition**

	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>FY2021</u>
<b><u>CCV (per credit hour)</u></b>				
Vermonter	288	8	3.0%	280
Non-Vermonter	577	17	3.0%	560
<b><u>Castleton University</u></b>				
<b><u>Regular programs</u></b>				
Vermonter	12,192	360	3.0%	11,832
Non-Vermonter	29,664	864	3.0%	28,800
<b><u>Nursing</u></b>				
Vermonter	15,912	456	3.0%	15,456
Non-Vermonter	29,664	864	3.0%	28,800
<b><u>Northern Vermont University</u></b>				
Vermonter	11,940	348	3.0%	11,592
Non-Vermonter	26,448	768	3.0%	25,680
<b><u>Vermont Technical College</u></b>				
<b><u>Regular programs</u></b>				
Vermonter	15,144	432	2.9%	14,712
Non-Vermonter	28,968	840	3.0%	28,128
International	33,312	960	3.0%	32,352
<b><u>Dental Hygiene</u></b>				
Vermonter	18,984	552	3.0%	18,432
Non-Vermonter	29,688	864	3.0%	28,824
International	34,032	984	3.0%	33,048
<b><u>Nursing</u></b>				
Vermonter	15,888	456	3.0%	15,432
Non-Vermonter	33,576	984	3.0%	32,592
International	37,920	1,104	3.0%	36,816

**Notes**

1. Per credit rates are full time divided by 24, unless otherwise noted.
2. Non-Vermonter includes students who do not meet VT residency requirements, except for those in special programs with individually identified rates.
3. New England Board of Higher Education Board (NEBHE) rate is 150% of Vermont rate (except CCV, for which the NEBHE rate equals the Vermont rate, and for NVU, for which the NEBHE rate equals the Non-Vermonter rate minus \$6,500).
4. Credits in excess of 18 (19 for VTC, or 12 for NVU online programs) per term will be charged at the per credit rate.
5. Summer rates are billed per credit and billed at the course college rate.

**VERMONT STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM**  
**DRAFT FY2022 Tuition, Fees, Room & Board**  
**3% Increase: Tuition Fees, Room, Board**  
**Maximum Per-Credit Graduate Tuition**

	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>FY2021</u>
<b><u>Castleton University</u></b>				
Vermont	872	25	3.0%	847
Non-Vermont	872	25	3.0%	847
<b><u>Northern Vermont University</u></b>				
Vermont	648	19	3.0%	629
Non-Vermont	943	27	3.0%	916
<b><u>Vermont Technical College</u></b>				
Vermont	767	22	3.0%	745
Non-Vermont	1,468	43	3.0%	1,425
International	1,686	49	3.0%	1,637

**Notes**

1. Non-Vermont includes students who do not meet VT residency requirements, except for those in special programs with individually identified rates.
2. New England Board of Higher Education Board (NEBHE) rate is 150% of Vermont rate.
3. Summer rates are billed per credit and billed at the college rate.

**VERMONT STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM**  
**DRAFT FY2022 Tuition, Fees, Room & Board**  
**3% Increase: Tuition Fees, Room, Board**  
**Fees, Room & Board**

	Proposed FY2022	\$ Change	% Change	FY2021
<b>Individual Service Fees:</b>				
<b><u>Set by Board</u></b>				
Application	55	0	0.0% all	55
Graduation	125	0	0.0% all	125
Student Activity Fee	317	9	0.0% /yr	308
Facilities Fee	931	27	3.0% /yr	904
<b><u>Set by Colleges</u></b>				
Orientation/Basic Skills Testing/Assessment				
Course Fees				
Partial Payment				
Penalty Fees				
			(can be adjusted for inflation as necessary)	
<b><u>Room Rates:</u></b>				
Double Room	7,313	213	3.0% /yr	7,100
Premium for a Single Room	1,916	56	3.0% /yr	1,860
Reduction for Tripling	(1,545)	(45)	3.0% /yr	(1,500)
Single Room Suite	10,094	294	3.0% /yr	9,800
<b><u>Board Rates:</u></b>				
Gold Plan/unlimited meals with \$100	4,732	138	3.0% /yr	4,594
Base plan/12 meals/wk with \$150/yr	4,559	133	3.0% /yr	4,426
8 meals/wk with \$220/yr in DB	4,380	128	3.0% /yr	4,252



## **Supplemental Materials: Tuition & Fee Setting**

# Applications Are Decreasing

Common Application reports declines of 8 percent. Applications for first-generation students and those eligible for fee waivers are down 16 percent.

By [Scott Jaschik](#) // November 16, 2020



([https://www.insidehighered.com/sites/default/server\\_files/media/gettyimages-545283382-170667a.jpg](https://www.insidehighered.com/sites/default/server_files/media/gettyimages-545283382-170667a.jpg))

ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES PLUS

The Common Application received 8 percent fewer applications through Nov. 2 compared to last year, and 60 percent of its 921 members were reporting application declines.

Applications from first-generation students and those eligible for application fee waivers were down 16 percent.

Those figures are from an update that Jenny Rickard, president and CEO of the Common App, recently provided to members.

It is of course true that -- aside from early-decision and early-action deadlines -- most application deadlines haven't yet occurred. And the Common App notes that many colleges moved deadlines back by one or two weeks, typically to Nov. 15 or 16.

Still, last year, 57 percent of applicants had submitted at least one application by Nov. 2, and 37 percent of all applications had been submitted by that date.

The Common App started primarily as a tool for liberal arts colleges, but it has expanded significantly to public higher education and larger institutions.

In an interview, Rickard said that she was particularly concerned about the figures for first-generation and low-income students. She hopes educators will redouble efforts to "support them in the process."

Numerous studies have shown that first-generation, Black and Latinx students are not enrolling this year at the same levels as white and Asian students.

colleges are not requiring applicants to submit SAT or ACT scores this year, as so many students have reported that it is impossible for them to register for and take the tests even once, let alone more than once.

Colleges that are not requiring test scores "experienced stronger first-year application volume through November 2," Rickard's letter said. (Florida's public universities, which require the SAT or ACT, are experiencing a decline of [up to 50 percent \(https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2020/11/09/applications-floridas-public-universities-are-down-much-50-percent\)](https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2020/11/09/applications-floridas-public-universities-are-down-much-50-percent) in applications.)

On application fees, 22 institutions dropped their application fees for first-year international students in 2020, and application volume at those institutions rose nearly 29 percent. Institutions that introduced fees for this population experienced a nearly 12 percent decline in application volume for international students through Nov. 2.

Other findings:

- Colleges and universities in the Northeast and Midwest regions experienced the largest declines in application volume, each down 14 percent.
- Colleges in the West saw a 10 percent increase in applications relative to 2019.
- First-year application declines were mostly consistent among members across enrollment size, with the exception of those with the smallest enrollments (fewer than 1,000), which were down substantially more, at a loss of 14 percent.
- Public four-year institutions saw an 11 percent drop relative to 2019, while private four-year institutions saw a smaller (5 percent) fall in volume over the same period.

One group experiencing positive results is historically Black colleges and universities, which are seeing a 2.4 percent increase. Many HBCUs have been getting [high student compliance \(https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/09/24/hbcus-experiencing-better-student-compliance-pandemic-restrictions-other\)](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/09/24/hbcus-experiencing-better-student-compliance-pandemic-restrictions-other) with social distancing and mask wearing and are reporting lower coronavirus infection rates.

The Coalition for College is a competitor to the Common App and has more than 100 members, most of them also members of the Common App.

A spokeswoman for the Coalition said via email, "While some member institutions are seeing an increase in applications, numbers are trending downward so far over all. Nationally, [Free Application for Federal Student Aid] completions are running about 16 percent behind last year's completions at this time, and lagging further

Angel B. Pérez, CEO of the National Association for College Admission Counseling, said the numbers from the Common App indicate that "institutions that are seeing success in application numbers thus far are those that worked hard to put students at the center of the process and remove barriers." For instance, he said the data show "that institutions that did not remove the testing requirement are seeing fewer applications, and particularly from marginalized populations. Institutions still have time to consider ways to simplify the process for applicants."

He said it was important to remember that "simplification does not mean a lack of attention to academic rigor -- these two are not mutually exclusive." Pérez said, "This is a time for institutions to ask themselves, 'What do we really need to make informed decisions about student's ability to succeed?'"

Pérez also said it was important to look at FAFSA completion rates, [which have been falling](https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2020/10/27/new-dashboard-tracks-fafsa-completion-rates) (<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2020/10/27/new-dashboard-tracks-fafsa-completion-rates>).

"This will create serious challenges this winter when schools are running their econometric models to figure out how much money they need to disburse in financial aid to meet enrollment targets," he said. "A strategic focus on creating FAFSA completion campaigns will be critical to success this year."

In the end, Pérez said, it is important to convince everyone at a college to help in the recruitment process. "When I sat in the chief enrollment chair, I always reminded my institution that it takes a village to enroll a class," he said. "It's never been more important to call upon the entire community to help recruit the class. Students, staff, faculty, trustees, alumni and parents can make a significant difference this year. Every constituency should be a cheerleader for the institution, not just the admissions office."

Read more by [Scott Jaschik](#)

[WANT TO ADVERTISE? CLICK HERE \(HTTPS://WWW.INSIDEHIGHERED.COM/ADVERTISE\)](https://www.insidehighered.com/advertise)



[https://careers.insidehighered.com/?utm\\_source=ihe&utm\\_medium=editorial-site&utm\\_content=sidebar-link&utm\\_campaign=jobs](https://careers.insidehighered.com/?utm_source=ihe&utm_medium=editorial-site&utm_content=sidebar-link&utm_campaign=jobs)

# Burlington Free Press

## LOCAL

# University of Vermont plans to freeze its tuition for 2020-21. How does its costs compare to other public universities?

**Ethan Bakuli** Burlington Free Press

Published 8:55 a.m. ET Nov. 15, 2019 | Updated 4:27 p.m. ET Feb. 17, 2020

*Correction/Clarification: Tuition at four year colleges in Vermont rank highest nationally. An earlier version of this story was unclear about the University of Vermont's ranking in relation to other colleges.*

The flagship public university for Vermont will hold its tuition for in-state and out-of-state students in the academic year 2020-21, according to an announcement by University of Vermont president Suresh Garimella on Thursday.

“Relying on annual tuition increases, even modest ones, is not sustainable,” Garimella said. “As we move forward, we will focus intently on all the ways the university can generate additional revenue to relieve the pressure on tuition.”

The zero tuition increase comes at a time where increasing student loan debt is impacting households across the country.

“The relentless rise in tuition over the last several decades has placed an unsustainable burden on students and their families,” said David Daigle, chair of the University of Vermont Board of Trustees.

“Our board is fully supportive of this objective as it will immediately reduce this burden and sends an important signal that the university is committed to affordability and accessibility.”

## Tuition among Vermont public four-year colleges ranks highest

Among public four-year institutions, Vermont ranks the highest in terms of tuition costs in the academic year 2019-20, according to higher education non-profit College Board.

The 2019-2020 tuition and fees for in-state University of Vermont undergraduates was \$18,276. For out-of-state students it was \$42,516.

The average student loan debt per borrower in Vermont is \$29,656, according to data from online financial services LendEDU.

Tuition rates for the academic year 2020-21 will not be set until the board of trustees meets during the spring semester of 2020. A tuition freeze would apply to all new and returning in-state and out-of-state students, both undergraduate and graduate, beginning in the fall of 2020.

*Contact Ethan Bakuli at (802) 556-1804 or ebakuli@freepressmedia.com. Follow him on Twitter @BakuliEthan.*

# Burlington Free Press

## NEWS

# UVM president recommends second year of tuition freeze

**Ethan Bakuli** Burlington Free Press

Published 4:49 p.m. ET Oct. 26, 2020

University of Vermont students could see no tuition increase for the 2021-2022 academic year, university president, Suresh Garimella said on Monday.

“No increase for undergraduate students, no increase for graduate students. No increase for in-state students, no increase for out-of-state students,” Garimella said in a news release.

Tuition for in-state UVM undergraduates has remained at \$16,392 since the 2019-2020 academic year; for out-of-state students it is \$41,280. In that time comprehensive fees for all students had increased from \$2,410 to \$2,670.

Garimella cited the school's commitment to maintain "affordability and accessibility" for students and families, as well as the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as major reasons behind making the recommendation to the school's Board of Trustees.

**For more:** The University of Vermont won't see any tuition increases next year

"These moves on behalf of our students are an investment in our future and, if endorsed when the trustees meet in the spring, will mark three consecutive years of tuition being frozen at the same rate."

The president additionally recommended that the trustees freeze room and board charges at their current average of \$13,354, as well as reduce the student comprehensive fee.

Tuition rates for the academic year 2021-22 will be set when trustees meets during the spring semester of 2021. A tuition freeze would apply to all new and returning in-state and out-of-state students, both undergraduate and graduate, beginning in the fall of 2021.

*Contact Ethan Bakuli at (802) 556-1804 or ebakuli@freepressmedia.com. Follow him on Twitter @BakuliEthan.*

# COMMUNICATIONS

The central communications/public information operation for the USG

## Board of Regents approves no tuition increase for 2020-2021 academic year

Atlanta – April 14, 2020

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) voted Tuesday, April 14, to approve a recommendation of no tuition increase for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The Regents' action means there will be no increase for any USG student. Students will pay the same tuition rates at all 26 USG institutions for the 2020-2021 academic year as they do now for the current 2019-2020 academic year.

"One of the University System of Georgia's top priorities is affordability, and that has never been more important than now for our students and their families," USG Chancellor Steve Wrigley said. "We are all trying to navigate an extraordinary time. It is more critical than ever for our institutions to provide a quality education while maintaining the affordability and accessibility that helps more Georgians attain a college degree and find success in the workforce."

---

### Media Contact

---

Aaron Diamant  
404-962-3050

[communications@usg.edu](mailto:communications@usg.edu)

### Browse Releases by Category

---

- [Board of Regents Actions](#)
- [Board of Regents Meetings](#)
- [Budget & Tuition](#)
- [Chancellor](#)

annually for the past five years, well below the rate of inflation. This is the third time in five years there has been no tuition increase across the University System.

No increase in tuition also allows USG to continue to offer some of the lowest tuition rates among peer public higher education systems. Out of the 16 states that make up the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), USG has the fourth lowest in-state tuition and fees for undergraduates at four-year institutions.

Additionally, only fees related to debt payments or contractual obligations were approved for summer semester.

“USG continues to do all we can to ensure the cost of our colleges and universities remains among the lowest of our peers, while keeping a sharp focus on providing students with a high-quality, affordable and accessible experience,” Chairman Sachin Shailendra said.

Tuition rates for each institution may be found [here](#).

[« News Releases](#)

# No tuition or fee increase for students at Tennessee's community & technical colleges for Academic Year 2020-21: TN Board of Regents

Students attending Tennessee's public community colleges and colleges of applied technology will see no tuition or fee increase during the upcoming academic year as a result of action today by the Tennessee Board of Regents.



The Board unanimously approved recommendations of TBR staff and the Board's Finance and Business Operations Committee for no tuition or student fee increase – for both in-state and out-of-state students – in recognition of the economic conditions prompted by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is the first year without a tuition increase at Tennessee's 13 community colleges since 1991 and the first at the 27 Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology since 2013.

"We recognize the economic hardships that many students and their families may be experiencing during this economic downturn and we want to do our part to keep higher education affordable at a time when Tennesseans need us the most," said Board of Regents Vice Chair Emily J. Reynolds.

"In doing so, we are also recognizing the state Administration's and the General Assembly's strong commitment to higher education," said Chancellor Flora W. Tydings. "Their past commitments to funding higher education have helped to put us in a position where we can do this for our students and their families in their time of greatest need."

Tennessee's community and technical colleges remain the most affordable higher education option for Tennesseans. Today's action to maintain tuition and fees at 2019-20 levels follows three consecutive years of combined tuition and fee increases of less than 3 percent. For an academic year (two semesters at community colleges, three trimesters at TCATs), tuition and mandatory fees for Tennessee residents attending full time range from \$4,504 to \$4,588 at the community colleges and \$3,937 at the TCATs.

Many students attend free of tuition and mandatory fees through the Tennessee Reconnect programs and other state and federal financial assistance.

In other action during today's quarterly meeting, the Board of Regents:  
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information      Severe Storms Relief Fund

- Approved capital budget requests for Fiscal Year 2021-22 – a \$28.6 million Arts and Technology Classroom Building at Columbia State Community College's Williamson Campus in Franklin, a \$19 million Laboratory and Classroom Building at Nashville State Community College's Clarksville Campus, and \$44.2 million for 50 major maintenance projects across the system. The requests now go to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission for consideration, along with projects from state universities, for THEC's overall capital budget recommendation to the state for the FY 2021-22 budget cycle.
- Approved 21 new, expanded or relocated training programs at seven different Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology.
- Approved faculty tenure and promotion recommendations and college president emeritus contracts.
- Approved preliminary systemwide budgets for the colleges totaling \$1.18 billion for Fiscal Year 2020-21, down from \$1.22 billion for FY 2019-20. Regent Greg Duckett, chair of the Board's Finance and Business Operations Committee, said the budgets are based on the level of state funds recommended in the Governor's budget proposal and approved by the General Assembly, as well as early estimates of factors such as enrollment and availability of federal funds.
- Approved resolutions of appreciation recognizing the service on the Board of Faculty Regent Robert Pepper of TCAT Whiteville and Student Regent Emily Dollar of Walters State Community College, whose terms end this month.
- Approved the naming of a new classroom building at Motlow State Community College's Rutherford County Campus in Smyrna the Hiatt-Spivey Center in honor of the Hiatt family and the late Smyrna Mayor Bob Spivey for the many contributions they have made to the campus's success. Mayor Spivey was instrumental in helping establish the college in Smyrna through a land donation from the Town of Smyrna and contributions by the Hiatt family helped fund construction of the building.
- Re-elected Regent Reynolds, who has served on the Board of Regents since 2010, as the Board's vice chair for another year.

The Board also was given an update that funding for the proposed \$21.7 million Advanced Manufacturing Building at TCAT Chattanooga was included in the Fiscal Year 2020-21 state budget approved by the General Assembly early today. Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance Danny Gibbs

said TBR Facilities Development staff "look forward to working with TCAT Chattanooga to get this project started."

Full details, the agenda, Board background materials and an archived video of the Board meeting are posted on the TBR website at <https://www.tbr.edu/board/june-2020-quarterly-board-meeting>.  
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information      Severe Storms Relief Fund

*The College System of Tennessee is the state's largest public higher education system, with 13 community colleges, 27 colleges of applied technology and the online TN eCampus serving approximately 140,000 students. The system is governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents.*

## Contact

---

### **Richard Locker**

615-366-4417

Published: 06/18/2020

Follow on twitter @CollegeSystemTN





## **System-Wide Budget Preparation**

The FY2022 fiscal budgeting process is currently underway. First pass budgets will be presented to the Finance and Facilities Committee on February 1, 2021. Budget planning factors currently include:

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Mix</b>
Tuition & Fees	0%	Institution	Institution
Room & Board	3%	Institution	Institution
State Appropriation	0%	n/a	n/a
All other Revenue Sources	0%	2%	n/a

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Mix</b>
Wages & Benefits	Contractual	Institution	Institution
Supplies & Services	0%	Institution	n/a
Scholarships	3%	Institution	Institution
Utilities	10%	Institution	n/a
Debt Service	Per Schedule	n/a	n/a
Chancellor's Office	Contractual	Institution	Institution
All other	0%	Institution	n/a

Additionally, the institutions have been asked to consider several planning scenarios including a “best likely” and “worst likely” scenario as well as considering various levels of bridge funding between no bridge funding and the full request of \$45 million.

In January the institutions will collaboratively review the budgets with an eye toward consistency, meeting the strategic priorities of the Vermont State Colleges System as defined by the Board of Trustees, and continuing the ongoing transformation of the VSCS.

In preparation for the February meeting, the institutions will prepared to share information with the Board regarding key action steps necessary to address the projected budget shortfall in FY2022.

---

### **Critical Budgeting Factors**

---

The key revenue drivers for the VSCS budget are student revenue (enrollment, rate, and mix of students) and state appropriation. The key expense drivers are wages and benefits (employees) at 63% of our total expenses, debt service, and scholarships. The revenue factors are difficult to predict and will, ultimately, inform the decisions necessary regarding our critical expenses. Additionally, the work of the Select Committee and Board of Trustees, requiring careful collaboration and coordination between VSCS institutions and the Board. We look forward to robust discussions in the coming months.



## Supplemental Information: Grant Update

As of December 1, 2020, the Vermont State Colleges System has \$73,624,805 in active grants. These grants, distributed broadly between the institutions, are a key source of support for the work of the Vermont State Colleges System.

<b>Vermont State Colleges - Sponsored Projects, FY21</b>								
<i>Summary of active grants as of December 1, 2020</i>								
<b>Institution</b>	<b>FEDERAL GRANTS</b>		<b>STATE GRANTS</b>		<b>OTHER GRANTS</b>		<b>VSC TOTAL</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>
CCV	12	\$8,572,520	3	\$110,000	16	\$1,502,392	31	\$10,184,912
CU	13	\$10,120,565			8	\$217,000	21	\$10,337,565
NVU	26	\$11,380,088	2	\$17,400	6	\$183,838	34	\$11,581,326
VTC	19	\$16,129,608	4	\$1,377,894	9	\$600,000	32	\$18,107,502
OC	3	\$23,398,500			1	\$15,000	4	\$23,413,500
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>\$69,601,281</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>\$1,505,294</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>\$2,518,230</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>\$73,624,805</b>

**NOTES:**  
 CCV's totals do not reflect McClure Grad Gift for Spring 2021, as that amount is TBD depending on use.  
 This does not include a grant made to the VSC Foundation for CU (Donchian Foundation, \$200,000).

As of December 1, 2020, the Vermont State Colleges system has seven pending grant proposals totally \$3,862,612. As these grants are approved or denied they will be removed from this list.

<b>PENDING PROPOSALS (as of December 1, 2020)</b>			
<b>Institution</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Requested</b>	<b>PI</b>
CCV	VT Dept of Labor	\$45,000	Tiffany Keune
CU	American Chemical Society	\$70,000	Tim Thibodeau
CU	National Science Foundation	\$109,446	C. Palmer
CU/VSC	Dept of Ed - FIPSE	\$1,797,653	Yasmine Ziesler
NVU-J	USDA Rural Utilities Service	\$549,854	Bobbi Jo Carter
NVU-L	Corp for National & Community Service	\$304,407	Danielle Hume
NVU-L	Northern Borders Region Commission	\$986,252	Ann Nygard
<b>Total of pending grants</b>		<b>\$3,862,612</b>	



## **Supplemental Information: Capital Project Update**

---

### **Castleton University Projects**

---

1. In late February bids were solicited for the replacement of the High Roof on the Fine Arts Center at Castleton. A number of bids were received and the project was awarded to Vermont Roofing Company located in Rutland. The project cost was \$235,168. Vermont Roofing began the removal of the old membrane roof and the original built-up roofing system in mid-May and completed the project in mid-July.
2. Castleton requested bids in late April for the demolition and replacement of decaying concrete exterior stairs and basement window wells. The project was awarded to Multi-Builders of Middlebury for a lump sum of \$26,000. Demolition started in late May and was the reconstruction was completed in late June.
3. A few additional maintenance projects were completed and they are as follows:
  - a. The Ellis Hall boiler retubing.
  - b. Replacement of steam domestic water heaters in Huden, Castleton, and Haskell Halls.
  - c. The replacement of a large bay window in Ellis Hall.

---

### **NVU - Lyndon Projects**

---

1. The Arnold Hall emergency generator was replaced due to age and its dependability. This project started in May and was completed in July.

---

### **NVU - Johnson Projects**

---

1. In early April of 2019 bids were received for the Site Improvements project. The project involved the reconstruction of a portion of the main drive between the College Apartments and the Bentley parking lot. Also, the Bentley parking lot was to be reconstructed. The bid was awarded to J Hutchins for Richmond. The project was divided into two phases and the first being the road reconstruction and a small portion of the Bentley lot. The second phase was the completion of the Bentley lot. Phase I was completed in 2019 as scheduled and the second phase was started this past May and was completed in early July.
2. In recent years there has been concerns about the Dewey Hall HVAC system's ability to provide adequate ventilation. Alliance Mechanical has asked to evaluate the system and the evaluation revealed a few issues such as low volumes of supply air in a few areas, system controls not operating as intended and the systems inability to remove building moisture during the summer months. The systems controls were corrected, modifications are being

made to increase air flows and equipment is being installed to remove moisture during the summer months. All modifications will be completed by the end of December.

3. Bentley Hall also had an HVAC system evaluation completed. The evaluation found that this building also had control issues and was in need of replacement of some control system equipment. The control system corrections and the replacement equipment will be installed within the next couple weeks. These modifications will increase air flow in a number of areas in the building.

---

### **Vermont Tech Projects**

---

1. In late September an RFP for A&E services was released for the Advanced Manufacturing Center Renovation in Morrill Hall. A number of proposals were received and Freeman French Freeman was selected as our A&E team. In mid-November another RFP was released for a Construction Manager and again a number of proposals were received and DEW Construction was selected as our Construction Manager. Both firms started work on the project immediately. It is anticipated that construction will start early February and will be completed by August 1, 2021 for the start of the fall semester.
2. Also, as part of the Advanced Manufacturing renovation, the VTC IT Department located in Morrill, had to be relocated. It was decided that they would occupy the old bookstore area in Judd Hall. This move will involve moving a data center and staff offices to the new location. VTC contracted with SAS Architects to design the new space and create construction documents. On December 9th a construction pre-bid meeting is being held for the construction of the new space. Project completion is scheduled for early March 2021.
3. The Central Heating Plant chimney has developed a number of cracks in the exterior brick and it also has a number of flue tiles that has developed major cracks. Engineering Services of Vermont has been contracted to create documents for the replacement of the flue tiles and repair of the exterior brick. It is anticipated that the project will be bid in early March with construction in mid-May.