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Contact: Katherine Levasseur
Director of External and Governmental Affairs
katherine.levasseur@vsc.edu

Vermont State Colleges System Comments on Proposal for Historic Investment in System Transformation

MONTPELIER, VT —Vermont State Colleges System Chancellor Sophie Zdatny today commented on the Vermont House’s proposal to bolster the Vermont State Colleges System (VSCS) with a total proposed appropriation of \$97 million in the [Fiscal Year 2022 State Budget](#). Notably, \$20.5 million of the proposed investment supports scholarships and free tuition programs for Vermont State Colleges students, \$5 million is an increase to the VSCS annual state appropriation, and \$20 million supports system transformation over the next four years. The remainder of the investment consists of the annual state appropriation of \$30.5 million and \$21 million in bridge funding to address the VSCS’s operating deficit.

“We are thrilled that the House is proposing this historic investment in the Vermont State Colleges System,” said VSCS Chancellor Sophie Zdatny. “Their support of the Board’s transformation plan will help stabilize the VSCS in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic impacts, support system transformation, and will provide crucial investments in our future and in our students in a time of tremendous need. This is an incredible signal of support from state leaders. Particularly, the increase in the Vermont State College System’s base appropriation, the pre-funding of the transformation costs, and the investments in scholarships for our students are especially noteworthy.”

Zdatny added, “we are grateful for the proposed investment and the support for the VSCS from the Vermont House of Representatives today. On behalf of our students, faculty and staff, partners, and host communities, I want to extend my gratitude to lawmakers for their willingness to prioritize support of the VSCS and our students. We are eager to move forward with the transformation plan to address our current financial challenges. This investment from the state will allow us to move forward with system transformation carefully and diligently while remaining open and secure now and well into the future. We know that lawmakers do not make this investment lightly, as there are many worthy proposals for state support across Vermont. We will do our part in the coming months and years to modernize, ensuring our campuses and academic offerings remain relevant and consistent with what our students and our economy require, that we evolve and restructure to right-size the system, and that focus our education mission on providing the comprehensive, experiential education that prepares students for the jobs and careers needed to grow Vermont’s economy and for participation and enrichment of a democratic and civil society.”



For the benefit of Vermont, the Vermont State Colleges system provides affordable, high quality, student-centered, and accessible education, fully integrating professional, liberal, and career study, consistent with student aspirations and regional and state needs. The Vermont State Colleges system includes Castleton University, the Community College of Vermont, Northern Vermont University, and Vermont Technical College. Learn more at www.vsc.edu.

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