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May 21, 2021

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Vermont State Colleges System Comments on Historic Investment in Public Higher Education and Student Scholarships by the State Legislature

MONTPELIER, VT —Today Vermont State Colleges System Chancellor Sophie Zdatny released a statement on the Vermont Legislature's historic investment of 88.9 million dollars in the Vermont State Colleges System (VSCS) and Vermont students in the [Fiscal Year 2022 State Budget](#).

The legislature is funding \$88.9 million in investments including:

- \$30.5 million in the annual state appropriation;
- \$5 million increase to the annual state appropriation;
- \$20 million to support system transformation over the next four years;
- \$21 million in bridge funding to address the VSCS's operating deficit due to COVID-19; and
- \$12.4 million in student scholarships, free tuition program pilots, and workforce development initiatives.

This is on top of the investment of \$7.2 million in VSCS student scholarships in Act 9 and \$3.8 million in the budget to VSAC for the 802Opportunity program.

"This is a remarkable and truly historic moment for the Vermont State Colleges System," said VSCS Chancellor Sophie Zdatny. "Not only is the legislature investing in our system modernization and transformation, they are providing a truly unprecedented level of support to Vermont learners by funding scholarship opportunities, workforce development initiatives, and even free tuition for certain programs of study next year. These investments will pave the way to a college degree for many Vermonters and we are excited to work with our financial aid and admissions offices to roll these programs out in the coming weeks and months."

As we continue to transform, students and their success are our key focus. We are committed to delivering the higher education and continuing education opportunities Vermont and Vermonters need, while preserving the high-touch, personalized approach, and close-knit campus communities for which the VSCS is known. The Legislature's investment in system transformation, the increase to our standard base appropriation, and the funding to make whole our structural deficit are critical to supporting this vision. We are grateful for the support from the legislature and look forward to working with them on our shared goal of a transformed public higher education system for Vermont in the years to come."



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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