



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Vermont State Colleges System Comments on Senate's Investment in System Transformation**

MONTPELIER, VT —Vermont State Colleges System Chancellor Sophie Zdatny released a statement today on the Vermont Senate's proposal to support the Vermont State Colleges System (VSCS) with a total proposed appropriation of \$88.9 million in the [Fiscal Year 2022 State Budget](#).

Notably, the Senate and House are in agreement on major aspects of the VSCS budget, 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

In a similar proposal to the House, the Senate put forward \$12.4 million in scholarships and free tuition programs for Vermont State Colleges students, as well as workforce development. There is broad agreement in both chambers on providing free classes, a free tuition program, scholarships to incentivize adult learners to finish their degrees, and scholarships to incentivize students to transfer home Vermont State Colleges Systems schools.

"The legislature is supporting a historic investment in the Vermont State Colleges System and a tremendous boost to affordability for our students," said VSCS Chancellor Sophie Zdatny. "These actions are an incredible signal of support for the Vermont State Colleges System, our ongoing system transformation, and our students."

"With these investments, it is clear that lawmakers are in agreement that our system must transform carefully and diligently. Following the legislature's lead, we are committed to modernize, right-size, evolve, and restructure. As we work to do so, we will continue our work to 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](http://www.vsc.edu).*

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