

July 15, 2022

JOINT STATEMENT: NEW ENGLAND COMMISSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE VERMONT STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM

On June 17, 2022, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) accepted the substantive change proposal submitted by the Vermont State Colleges System to consolidate three separate institutions into Vermont State University, effective July 1, 2023. Vermont State University will bring together Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, and Vermont Technical College to form a single state-wide institution of higher education.

The VSCS proposal outlines a comprehensive, multi-year planning process which, if successfully implemented, NECHE has determined to be consistent with its *Standards for Accreditation*. Vermont State University will have five constituent primary campuses and will implement an innovative hybrid operational model designed to increase accessibility for learners. VSCS will be submitting two reports to NECHE over the upcoming academic year to document its progress in preparing for the July 1, 2023 launch of Vermont State University, as well as undergoing a focused evaluation by NECHE in Fall 2023. Accreditation for Vermont State University is contingent upon the successful implementation of its transformation plans, as determined by the Commission.

ABOUT THE NEW ENGLAND COMMISSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) is a voluntary, non-governmental membership association that serves as an institutional accreditor and promotes educational excellence and quality assurance to its member institutions. NECHE currently accredits over 200 institutions across the globe and is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a reliable authority on the quality of education. The Commission consists of faculty and administrators from affiliated institutions and public members. The Commission is also recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), affirming that its Standards and processes are consistent with the expectations that CHEA has established. Learn more about NECHE at www.NECHE.org.

ABOUT THE VERMONT STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM

The Vermont State Colleges System provides affordable, high quality, student-centered, and accessible education and career development opportunities for all Vermonters. In 2020, the Vermont State Colleges System embarked on a period of transformation to unify Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, and Vermont Technical College by July 1, 2023. When fully transitioned, the Vermont State Colleges system will be comprised of Vermont State University and Community College of Vermont (CCV). Learn more about the Vermont State Colleges System at www.vsc.edu.

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