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Vermont State Colleges System Board of Trustees Welcomes Two New Members

Student Perry Ragouzis and State Representative David Durfee join the VSCS Board of Trustees

Montpelier, VT – The Vermont State Colleges System Board of Trustees welcomes Castleton University junior Perry Ragouzis and State Representative David Durfee to the Board.

Representative David Durfee joins the Board of Trustees from Shaftsbury, VT and represents the Bennington-3 district in the Vermont House of Representatives. In addition to his role in the legislature, Representative Durfee also serves on the boards of BROCC Community Action, a community support organization which is based in and serves both Bennington and Rutland counties, and as Treasurer of the Mount Anthony Union School District. He has a wealth of experience with a wide array of cooperatives, nonprofits, and businesses. As a legislative trustee, Representative Durfee will serve a four-year term on the Board of Trustees ending in 2026.

About joining the Board of Trustees Representative Durfee said “the Vermont State Colleges System is an integral resource for the people who live and work in this state. Joining the Board of Trustees is an opportunity to move the needle on meeting the needs of Vermonters. The upcoming unification of three Vermont schools from around the state ensures that students anywhere in Vermont can do anything, from earning a four-year degree in environmental studies, to completing career training as an HVAC technician. I am happy to bring my systems-level knowledge and experience with business and cooperatives to the board, and to advocate for the relevance and success of the system within the legislature.”

Perry Ragouzis is a current student at Castleton University studying political science. Originally from Fort Collins, Colorado, Ragouzis is known for his work on campus organizing food drives to address food insecurity faced by his fellow students. As the student trustee, Ragouzis will serve a one-year term with an opportunity for reelection.

Ragouzis stated, “I am looking forward to joining the Board of Trustees at this exciting time in the Vermont State Colleges history. The creation of Vermont State University means that we can bring together the best of our Vermont schools to form something entirely new. I am thrilled that I will get to be a part of the decision-making process, bringing my skills and the student voice to this important work. My goal is to make sure that the student experience is prioritized, whether that means for four-year degree-seeking students, part-time students and commuter students, and those in the workforce development programs around the state.”

About the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is the fiduciary of the Vermont State Colleges System and provides the strategic direction for the system and the member institutions—Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, Vermont Technical College, and Community College of Vermont.

Importantly, the Board of Trustees is overseeing the ongoing essential transformation work to unify Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, and Vermont Technical College into a singly-accredited university – Vermont State University—by July 1, 2023, with system-wide administrative transformation and physical transformation over the next five years. When fully transitioned, the Vermont State Colleges system will be comprised of Vermont State University and Community College of Vermont (CCV).

About 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, these schools will unite as a single accredited institution entitled Vermont State University, bringing together all five campuses. The new University will increase access to high-quality educational programs for all learners, fueling Vermont’s economic pipeline, and creating greater access to affordable higher education opportunities. When fully transitioned, the Vermont State Colleges system will be comprised of Vermont State University and Community College of Vermont (CCV). Learn more about Vermont State University at www.vermontstate.edu and the Vermont State Colleges System at www.vsc.edu.

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