

# VSC Education, Personnel & Student Life Committee

May 12, 2025



# VSCS Innovation Fund Group

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- Ernesto Fernandez, VTSU Director of Development
- Wilson Garland, VSC Chief Information Officer (currently inactive)
- Jennifer Garrett-Ostermiller, VTSU Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Innovation
- Aimee Stephenson, CCV Director of Resource Development
- Heather Weinstein, CCV Dean of Strategic Initiatives and Student Affairs

## Chancellor's Innovation Fund Goals

Foster	Foster systemness
Promote	Promote shared purpose
Advance	Advance strategic priorities
Encourage	Encourage cross-campus/cross-institutional & shared services collaboration
Support	Support interdepartmental teamwork
Engage	Engage broad stakeholder groups
Drive	Drive mission-aligned innovation

# Proposal Scoring Committee

Ernesto Fernandez, VTSU Director of Institutional Advancement

Jen Garrett-Ostermiller, VTSU Director of the Center for Teaching & Learning Innovation (CTLI)

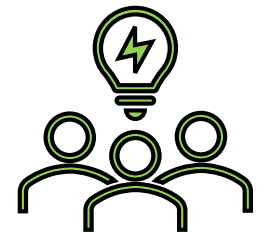
Aimee Stephenson, CCV Director of Resource Development

Heather Weinstein, CCV Dean of Strategic Initiatives and Student Affairs

Fern Fryer, CCV Faculty, Academic Council Member

Meaghan Meacham, VTSU Faculty Assembly Moderator

Wilson Garland, VSC Chief Information Officer (round 1 scoring)



# Selection Criteria



## Innovative & Creative

Implementation of new ideas, projects, or methods

Transformative changes to existing curricula, methods, systems or processes

Integration of cross-institutional and/or interdisciplinary approaches to tackle complex challenges



## Strategic

Aligns with VSCS Strategic Priorities

Advances the VSCS Mission



## Collaborative

Involves multiple departments, campuses/academic centers

Cross-institutional (including Shared Services)



## Sustainable

High likelihood of long-term success & impact



## Measurable Outcomes

Well defined objectives

Demonstrable impact

# Year 1 Innovation Fund Projects



Fifteen (15) proposals



Five Selected projects

# Making a Difference & Making a Living Conference



## Opportunity

Addresses Vermont's declining student enrollment and offers the VSCS a chance to reframe higher education as an accessible path to personal growth, economic mobility, and community impact.



## Project Leads

Jessica Duncan (VTSU), Bo McDougall (VTSU), Employer and Community Engagement (VTSU), Chrispin White (Community Business Partner), Larry Courcelle (Castleton Alumni Board of Directors)



## Innovation

TED Talk-style hybrid conference highlighting the value of higher education through alumni and workforce leader stories, offering broad access for students, faculty, alumni, employers, and community members to hear firsthand how degrees drive impact and opportunity.



## Stakeholders

Students; Educators; Staff; Alumni; Employers; VT community, including high school students and prospective students



## Anticipated Impact

Inspire and connect students stakeholders across Vermont, demonstrating the value of a VSCS degree through increased engagement, strengthened community and workforce partnerships, and scalable, sustainable innovation

# Supports for Multilingual Learners



## Opportunity

This project creates an opportunity to address the unique needs of New American, multilingual students by ensuring CCV's curriculum and pathways are accessible and inclusive.



## Project Leads

This work will be primarily led and overseen by Arzu Gul, with support from members of the Multilingual Learner Working Group as needed.



## Innovation

Funding through the Chancellor's Innovation Fund aims to increase support of multilingual students through curriculum enhancement, faculty professional development, and cross-cultural activities.



## Stakeholders

Multilingual learners at CCV, as well as faculty and community partners.



## Anticipated Impact

More multilingual students successfully completing CCV programs and continuing their education through transfer pathways to VTSU and other colleges/universities.

# Opportunities for Undergraduate Research and Graduate Professional Study (*OUR GPS*)



## Opportunity

OUR GPS is providing an institutional structure for faculty/student paid research, hybrid mentoring for graduate school counseling, and resources and training for staff on graduate and professional school opportunities.



## Project Leads

Dr. Britt Green & Dr. Debbie Warnock  
(Directors of the McNair Scholars Program)



## Innovation

OUR GPS provides both an innovation in institutionalizing support for graduate school preparation and research and also provides an intervention via faculty and staff mentoring which has demonstrated benefits in retention.



## Stakeholders

Students, faculty, and staff will benefit on all campuses, including CCV campuses.



## Anticipated Impact

This project contributes to brand and university reputation by investing in a culture of research at VTSU, and provides paid high impact opportunities for students, paid incentives for faculty, and resources for staff that will contribute to student success, recruitment, and retention.

# VSCS Open Educational Resources Initiative



## Opportunity

The OER Initiative is an opportunity for faculty to find high quality, free pedagogical resources that will ultimately replace resources that cost students money.



## Project Leads

Five committee members, with six Science and Allied Health faculty members participating.



## Innovation

This project offers faculty a stipend to compensate for the time and effort required to adopt and adapt free and open resources for a course.



## Stakeholders

Students, Faculty, Library Services



## Anticipated Impact

No-cost textbooks for associated classes, improved student readiness from day one, and greater faculty awareness of how cost savings support student success and reduce stress.

# AI Readiness and Performance Tracking



## Opportunity

AI upskilling – tools, resources, ethical usage, etc.

Tracking training engagement



## Project Leads

Sarah Chambers and Matt Corriere (sponsor Wilson)

Core Team of CCV and VTSU stakeholders



## Innovation

AI (micro)-credentialing pathway that utilizes developed and existing training options.



## Stakeholders

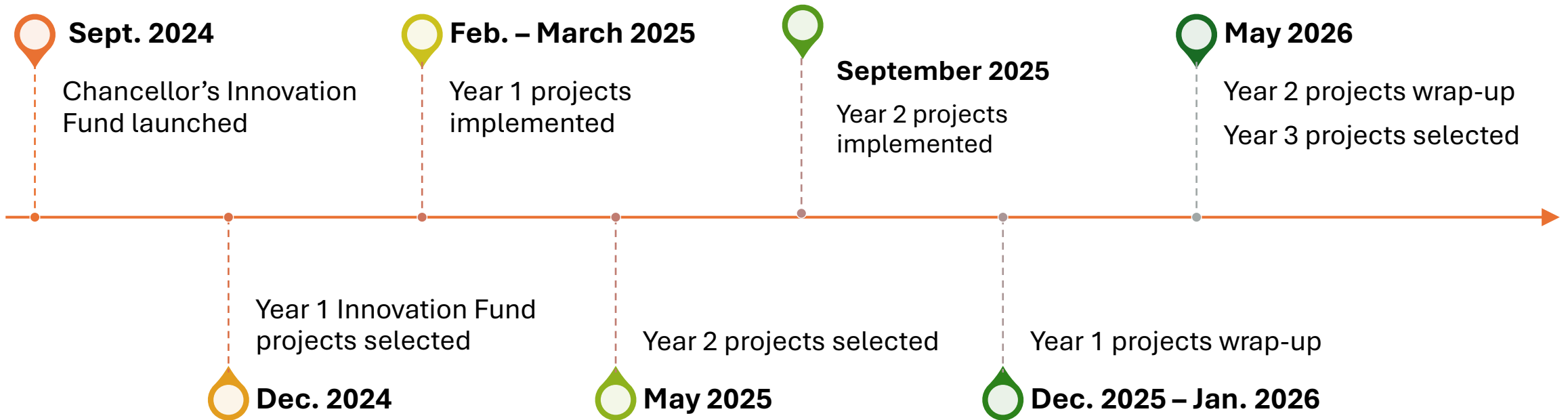
VTSU & CCV Faculty, Staff, and Students



## Anticipated Impact

Improve AI-related skills and knowledge for end users.

# Timeline



# Questions

