



Vermont State Colleges Update to Senate Education

Dr. Elizabeth Mauch, Chancellor

Vermont State Colleges System Strategic Vision

Aligning education, workforce, and communities for Vermont's future



The Challenge We Must Solve

Vermont is facing:

- Workforce shortages in healthcare, education, and skilled trades
- A declining and aging population
- Barriers to access in rural communities

We must align education directly with Vermont's needs.



Our Strategic Priorities

- 1. Workforce Alignment**
Aligning program directly to workforce needs
- 2. Student Success**
Ensuring programs are relevant, practical, and lead to employment
- 3. Buildings & Facilities**
Right-sizing and repurposing infrastructure to best serve students and the state.



Characteristics of our students

- Working adults
- Rural and place-bound
- Average ages
 - 29 for part-time
 - 23 for full-time
- Returning to education after time in the workforce or pursuing other goals.
- First generation college students

Our process is stakeholder and data informed and guided by:

- Listening sessions conducted across campuses and centers, with faculty, staff and students.
- Community feedback and engagement
- Reviewing enrollment and completion data
- Assessing finances
- Learning peer systems
- Aligning with Vermont's workforce and community needs

What This Looks Like in Practice

We are already implementing:

- Expansion of short-term and non-degree programs (ex: composites)
- Stackable credentials aligned to workforce pathways (ex: education)
- Strengthened transfer pathways
- Growth of online and hybrid options for working adults

Data and employer informed decision making to build programs that lead directly to employment in Vermont. Informed by employers, workforce data, partnerships with healthcare systems, K-12, and industry, and state & local government.

FY2027: General Fund & One-Times

Section B.602 Vermont State Colleges	FY26	FY27 Request	Recommend	Difference
General Fund	52,468,692	54,042,753	54,042,753	-

Section 1110 One-Times	FY26	FY27 Request	Recommend	Difference
FY26 Bridge Funding	5,000,000	-	-	-
Rural Micro Credential & Certificate Expansion	-	1,500,000	-	1,500,000
Total One-Time Sources	5,000,000	1,500,000	-	1,500,000

General Fund Request Sources	FY26	FY27 Request	Recommend	Difference
Total General Fund	57,468,692	55,542,753	54,042,753	1,500,000

FY2027: Allied Health/Global Commitment

Section B.603 VSC Allied Health	FY26	FY27 Request	Recommend	Difference
B.603: General Fund	297,087	306,000	306,000	-
B.603: Global Commitment Fund (GRANT)	1,500,000	3,894,000	1,500,000	2,394,000
Total Allied Health Programming	1,797,087	4,200,000	1,806,000	2,394,000

- Funds are vital in supporting faculty positions, clinical instruction, and student training across our nursing, radiologic sciences, respiratory therapy, and other allied health disciplines
- An acute challenge lies within our nursing programs, where we face significant recruitment and retention obstacles. Non-competitive faculty salaries, compared to regional and national benchmarks, hinder our ability to attract and retain qualified nursing educators.
- Shortfall jeopardizes program quality and limits capacity to train the next generation of nurses at a time when demand continues to rise across the state
- Requesting increasing in B.603: Allied Health Global Commitment grant funding to \$3,894,000 bringing total support to \$4,200,000

Facilities: Right-Sizing and Re-Purposing

Actively aligning our footprint with our mission.

- System-wide facilities assessment completed
- Repurposing space based on best use for students, community partners, or workforce needs
- Expanding use of campuses for:
 - Housing
 - K-12 partnerships
 - Community and employer partnerships

Every space must be optimized to serve student, community and workforce needs.



Vermont State University Housing at Johnson



Leverage underused assets via partnerships with public and private funders to directly address student and community housing needs.



Accountability and Direction

Within the next 5 years:

Expand workforce-aligned programs

Focus and streamline program offerings

Right-size and repurpose facilities

Grow non-degree pathways and stabilize enrollment

Within the next 10 years:

Fully align programs with workforce needs

Maintain a focused, sustainable program portfolio

Align facilities with demand and community use

Build an integrated rural education model

Looking ahead

We are ushering in a new era for Vermont State Colleges. Building a system that:

- Meets Vermont's workforce needs
- Expands access for Vermonters
- Uses resources responsibly



Dr. Sherry Kollman
Vice Chancellor & VTSU
President (starting July)



Dr. Elizabeth Mauch
Chancellor



Joyce Judy
Vice Chancellor & CCV
President

We are aligned with where Vermont needs to go.

Thank you!

Dr. Elizabeth Mauch, Chancellor