



The University of Vermont

Office of University Relations & Campus Life

June 22, 2012

*To: Workforce Development Council*  
*From: Clarence E. Davis, Director of State Relations*  
*Subject: University of Vermont Response to Act 162 Reporting Requirement*

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In response to the legislative request which states that “*Each entity will target these funds in a manner that brings to bear the maximum benefits of its unique missions and constituencies to further the workforce and economic development objectives of the state, participation in postsecondary education by underrepresented groups, and support for promising economic sectors in Vermont. By July 1, 2011, each entity will present a plan to the workforce development council (WDC) for deploying the scholarships along with proposed measurable short- and long-term outcomes. This will form the basis for a WDC recommendation for funding in fiscal year 2014.*”

UVM has and proposes to use Next Generation Scholarship funds from the state of Vermont to support critical workforce development in areas unique to or of particular strength at the University. This will insure an adequate and high quality workforce for the Vermont economy. As Vermont’s only land grant and Research University UVM has a responsibility to partner in statewide economic growth in order to create, attract, and maintain high-quality jobs, strengthen local businesses and communities, and promote life-long learning.

A particular focus needs to be the STEM disciplines [science, technology, engineering, and math] to ensure Vermont maintains a competitive edge in the global economy and that we have the resources in research and workforce to expand jobs and opportunities in Vermont in these areas

These 21<sup>st</sup> century skills set STEM successful professionals apart and, importantly, are almost impossible to outsource. They create well paid lasting jobs that support Vermont’s economy

Since the inception of the Next Generation scholarship fund in fiscal year 2008, \$5,414,000 has been distributed to 1527 Vermonters seeking bachelor’s degrees in fields that are scientific or technical in nature, tied to the land grant mission of the University and are important to the economic health of the State. These funds have supported students in nursing and other essential health professions; students in agriculture; students in environmental studies; students in STEM fields to support the growing technology sector; students in pre-K and secondary education with STEM skills; and students in business to support Vermont’s small family and entrepreneurial business sector. These scholarships have been part of UVM’s efforts to offer an affordable path for Vermont students to matriculate and graduate at record

numbers and percentages and enter the workforce with requisite skills to succeed. The University is committed to applying the \$500,000 of fiscal year 2013 Next Generation scholarships to students in fields necessary to support a strong Vermont economy.

Additionally, the University will continue to utilize the \$100,000 in Technology Transfer funds to aid in helping to bring University research innovations to the marketplace by:

- 1) Promoting public benefit from the commercialization of technologies emerging from UVM research, including the creation of new business;
- 2) Promoting innovation and economic development in Vermont and beyond by fostering interaction between the University and the private and public sector; and
- 3) Supporting research operations by enabling service and industry sponsored research agreements.

A recent poll of UVM's spin out companies revealed that 14 companies have emerged from UVM's research since 2004, with 8 of those in the past 3 years. 6 of the 8 got started with the help of UVM Ventures funds. These companies have created 45 full time jobs and have raised just over \$21 million. All but 2 of the companies are in Vermont.