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Comments to House Appropriations Committee From the Governor's Institutes of Vermont

Presented by Karen Taylor Mitchell MPA,
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*Changing Lives
for Over 30 Years*

Hello! I'm here to tell you about something you're doing for Vermont teens that is working very well. The Governor's Institutes of Vermont, also known as GIV, just completed a long-term outcomes study and so I'm able to bring you results-based data.

- **93%** of surveyed alumni said GIV influenced them in making choices regarding their future.
- **88%** called GIV one of the most important experiences of their high school years.

We know that the critical needs of VT's young people include self-confidence, supportive peer networks, and higher educational and career goals and pathways.

- In their own words, GIV gave **86%** of participants increased self-confidence.
- **Almost 4 out of 5** reported increased long-term social benefit
- **79%** reported learning about education or career goals that inspired them.
- Further career and educational benefits were reported, particularly among STEM graduates.

These effects are powerful and lasting; the alumni who reported these outcomes had participated 6-29 years previously.

So what is GIV?

- Vermont's largest provider of STEM learning outside of school for girls - and for all students. GIV also provides accelerated arts and humanities programming for high school students.
- Utilized by every high school and town in Vermont due to its residential nature - last year we served students from 74 Vermont high school and 4 home schools.
- Vermont's only accelerated programming of any kind for many of its high school students in small rural schools.

- **Created 30 years ago as the most cost-effective way to deliver curricular depth and resources to underserved Vermont high schoolers regardless of geographic location.** Although technology has since bridged some of the geography gap, GIV continues to fulfill essential needs that technology cannot for achievement-minded peer groups, role models, and hands-on learning for rural students.
- Vermont's guaranteed affordable enrichment program. Every student is enabled to attend via sliding scale tuition. Last year based on family financial circumstances, 84% of students paid less than the cost of services and the >12% with incomes below \$20K or severe extenuating circumstances paid \$20 or less.

Why am I here speaking with you?

First, to thank you. The fact that we're serving 500 students/year, 2% of Vermont's high schoolers, is thanks to a \$192,654 appropriation which we match 4:1 with private donations.

Second, the House Ed Committee asked me to come tell you about the outcomes we're getting and our goal to provide them to more students.

- We've increased our efficiency and fundraising to grow from 337 to 502 students annually over the last 4 years, including increasing our private dollar match from 2:1 to 4:1.
- The 2014 cost to the state per student for education that participants and their parents call "life-changing" is \$352, most of which is paid to Vermont colleges for room and board.
- GIV's board, educators and the Agency of Education all agree that GIV's programs could be beneficial to many more students than we are currently able to serve.

Therefore, I am here third to request the legislature consider stepping up funding in this and coming years in order for us to bring these powerful programs to more than twice as many young Vermonters. This leveraged investment is in a proven, highly efficient and extremely effective way to improve educational outcomes in Vermont.

Thank you.