

**Theresa Utton**

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**Subject:** FW:

**From:** Heidi Richard  
**Sent:** Friday, March 06, 2015 1:46 PM  
**To:** [governorvt@state.vt.us](mailto:governorvt@state.vt.us)  
**Cc:** Theresa Utton; Rebecca Buck  
**Subject:**

March 5, 2015

Dear Governor, House Appropriations Committee, and Senate Appropriations Committee

I am a nursing student enrolled in Vermont Technical College NEK site in Newport, Vermont. As a non-traditional adult student with a family at home, attending college can be difficult. It requires extreme discipline, time management, and motivation. On top of these challenges, another challenge in my quest for education is the physical location of classes. In the Northeast Kingdom many resources such as income, commerce, and transportation are limited. Access to formal education is as difficult to access as the broken, frost heaved, and unplowed roads on my hour long drive to the school and teaching hospital.

The only way possible for me and many other students in the Northeast Kingdom to achieve the education necessary to better the communities in our rural state is through the Vermont Interactive Technology (VIT) sites. VIT has delivered high quality training and education opportunities for more than twenty years. It is because of vital organizations such as VIT that thousands of Vermonter's have been able to achieve the education and training necessary to better themselves and their local communities. In order to keep young people, such as myself, working and paying taxes in this state, we need to give them the same opportunity for higher paying, more rewarding, and advancing careers which are only possible with access to education and training campuses such as VIT.

It has come to my attention, and that of my fellow students, that VIT stands to gain no funding for the next fiscal year due to Shumlin's budget cuts. If this comes to fruition, you will be pulling the rug out from the under the feet of thousands of prospective students and employees furthering the physical, financial, educational, agricultural, and multiple other avenues of growth of the state of Vermont. In a rural community like Vermont is made of, the best way to better our state is to invest in our own citizens so that they may pass that acquired wealth on to the next generation. Please do not cut the future education and job training goals short and stunt the health of our state by denying funding to organizations truly vested in the future of our state such as Vermont Interactive Technologies.

Thank you for your time,  
Heidi Richard-LNA, LPN student

Sent from Windows Mail