

**Castleton University Early College Legislative Report for Early College
Submission by Hannah Corkery- Assistant Director of Admissions**

**To: Legislature of Vermont and Early College Coordinator at the Agency of Education
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The level of participation for the Early College program at Castleton University from 2014-2015 academic years to 2015-2016 academic years has increased significantly. The first year class from 2014-2015 had 5 Vermont students within the program. The first year class from 2015-2016 currently enrolls 12 students.

Castleton University has had great success in achieving the goals of the Early College Program. The five students in 2014-15, and the twelve students in 2015-16, have enhanced their educational experiences and are definitely prepared for success in college and beyond. In addition to providing the students with stimulating and enriching courses, most participants have become involved in other aspects of college life, such as joining clubs and participating in extra-curricular activities.

As a result, not only have the students benefited from being on our campus and earning a full year of college credit, but the university has also benefited enormously from their presence in our classes and in our clubs. The program offers to mature high school students numerous intellectual, social, and financial benefits, and our professors are thrilled that they are here.

Two typical examples: Samantha Lynch, from West Rutland High School, took full advantage of the early college start. In her first semester at Castleton she became Vice President of the university's *One in Ten* club and worked part-time for the *Castleton Phonathon*. Lynch reported that her experiences at Castleton "helped me decide on my career path."

Alyssa Eaton, from Mill River High School, states that the opportunity to get a jumpstart on her college career has proved extremely helpful in deciding her plans after graduation. "It's a really great environment here and I love that everyone is treated like a big family," she says. In her short time on campus, Eaton has already built strong relationships with her professors and has become heavily involved in various organizations on campus, which she stated have made her transition from high school to college life seamless. She currently serves as a member of the Student Support Network and is actively involved in Peer Advocates for Change. "I hope to enroll at Castleton as a full time student after graduation and continue my education," she reports.

The specific outcomes of the Early College Program at Castleton University are strong. Based on the 2014-2015 classes 3 of the 5 students have continued their education at Castleton. The remaining 2 other students have continued their education at a different institution. Through the positive response of the current 2015-2016 Early College class we expect to have many of those students to continue their higher education at Castleton.