

CTE Videoconferencing

Strengths

Leverages existing state resources by utilizing infrastructure at 17 CTE sites and incorporating the provision of scheduling and tier one tech support into Division of Telecom and Connectivity resulting in significant reduction in ongoing operation costs.

Mobile carts and state-of-the-art voice recognition software offers flexible videoconferencing solution without requirement of onsite technicians to operate camera.

Weaknesses

CTEs do not have a unified governance structure which results in having to establish buy-in from each individual center. CTE directors have differing viewpoints regarding need for this kind of videoconferencing.

Opportunities

CTEs would have capability of expanding course enrollment to several other regions of the state. CTEs could offer students real-world videoconferencing experience and instruction. Potential to forge stronger relationship between CTEs and their communities

Threats

CTEs are currently focused on legislative-required, non-video conferencing initiatives. Recent history of school-based videoconferencing in Vermont reflects underutilization of technology.

Vermont Tech/VSC Videoconferencing

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Vermont Tech will be utilizing its existing administrative and network infrastructure and leveraging partnerships within the VSC and partnering CTE's to keep operational costs minimized.</p> <p>Vermont Tech's system relies on less expensive hardware, does not incur costs for on-site technicians, and is installed in classrooms that retain multipurpose functionality.</p> <p>Like all VSC resources, other interested users can access Vermont Tech's distance learning setup by prior arrangement, at a cost Vermont Tech is currently estimating to be 40% lower than the fees charged by VIT (based on contract with Department of Labor for delivery of apprenticeship courses for this coming spring).</p>	<p>Users of the system will require training to operate it, particularly those who are in the role of instructor/presenter. Students/users at the non-presenting location will need to have minimal training to power equipment on and off.</p> <p>While there is the capacity for more dynamic functionality (i.e. zooming in or out on demand) of cameras, in practice Vermont Tech's current expectation is that most users will rely on multiple, fixed camera positions.</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Vermont Tech's system will create opportunity for VSC faculty to offer dual-enrollment courses at partnering CTE's as well as other schools with basic, web-based videoconference capabilities.</p> <p>Vermont Tech expects its new system to create the opportunity for expansion in its delivery of high-value programs like nursing to underserved areas of the state without increasing delivery costs.</p>	<p>An ongoing threat to any large information technology setup is that the technology itself changes so rapidly. Vermont Tech is minimizing the threats associated with this change by relying on a software- rather than hardware-based system, so changes can be more quickly accommodated while minimizing higher hardware costs.</p>