



A Union of Professionals

AFT Vermont

Reclaim the Promise of Higher Education

Only 16% of the Vermont State College System is funded by the state. Students shoulder the rest of the funding, 84%, through high tuition and fees. We cannot saddle our students with a future of debt. We urge the legislature to fund the VSC now! **AFT VT supports Chancellor Spaulding’s request for an additional 4 million dollars to be allocated to the Vermont State Colleges along with an annual inflator. We also support H.122 a bill that would accomplish the above.** We believe that it is critical to have a strong public education pre-K through 16 and that in fact the health and well-being of the state is dependent on this. Therefore, AFT VT has cited several potential revenue sources to support increases to the VSC from our *Reclaim the Promise* report: http://vt.aft.org/files/rtp_report_final.pdf . **Some of those potential sources include:**

Restrict the amount of Vermont financial aid that heads to out of state colleges and Universities.

Only 42% of first-time college freshmen in Vermont stayed in-state to attend college, compared to 84% of first-time freshmen nationwide.

\$4.7 million, or 24% of all VSAC grant funds, were used by students attending out-of-state schools in FY13. This represented 4.9 percent of the state’s total budget for higher education.

Limiting the drain of these funds from the state means that \$4.7 million goes back in to the state higher education institutes.

In FY 14, Vermont allocated \$68.7 million for UVM and the state colleges , leveraging the state grant funds going out of state would mean a 7% increase in state funds supporting these institutions- attained without raising a dime of revenue.

If the Vermont legislature regulates and taxes the sale of marijuana, then the state should dedicate a portion of the anticipated revenue toward funding the Vermont State Colleges and the University of Vermont.

A majority (84%) of Vermonters who go to college in Vermont stay and work in Vermont. Supporting public higher education is supporting the public good.

Allocate an additional 1% over the growth of the General Fund to fund higher education.

AFT Vermont supports the recommendation of the Act 148 Working Group. That committee’s report can be found here:

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/Act-148-2014-Interim-Study-of-Higher-Education-Funding-FINAL-Jan-22-2014.pdf>.

