

## Bulleted Summary of Testimony

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February 27, 2017 Summary of 2014-2024 Long Term Occupational Projections Publication

- There are numerous job openings projected across a wide range of occupational families in Vermont; the three occupational families with the projected greatest number of openings over the next ten years are: Sales and Related Occupations, Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations, and Office and Administrative Support Occupations
- The economy continues to evolve and demand higher skills from the workforce as evidenced by the occupational families with the fastest projected growth rates on a percentage basis: Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations and Computer and Mathematical Occupations<sup>1</sup>
- The bulk of the openings across all occupational families will come from “replacements” versus growth which is due to normal turnover but also expected increases in retirements
- Per US Bureau of Labor Statistics definitions of minimum educational attainment levels by occupation, approximately 75% of all Vermont jobs do not require a 4-year degree
- The labor market is competitive so the minimum educational attainment level may not be sufficient to secure a job with all employers or in all hiring processes
- Skills can be acquired from a number of educational paths below a 4-year degree including career technical education, apprenticeships, industry recognized certificate training and two-year degree programs
- The Vermont Department of Labor is focused on increasing the awareness of Vermonters about the career and educational opportunities in Vermont. Increased awareness will help Vermonters make better decisions about what training, education and employment pathways are best for their unique circumstances
- The goal of the Economic & Labor Market Information Division within the Vermont Department of Labor is to produce quality information to help better inform individuals, businesses, and elected officials.

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<sup>1</sup> The occupational family with the largest percent growth is Farming, Fishing and Forestry Occupations but is not highlighted here as it is a very small occupational family and therefore the large percent increase is due to the family’s small size; not significant number of openings.