

My name is Molly Humphrey. I have been working as an educator with CHSVT for three years. Every year since I have started, I have been threatened with the closure of a school I have come to defend as a vital entity in the State of Vermont, and to the students I help to serve. Currently, I am the lone teacher at the Bennington Probation and Parole office with 8 students in the morning session, and 3 students in the afternoon. My students are incredibly curious and witty people, but who come to me with tremendous challenges. Several are in recovery, dealing with various mental and physical health issues, many are housing and food insecure, and have children to support.

One of the reasons the legislature often uses to justify the closing of street sites is the idea of a repetition of services with the local tutorial centers. While many in the community work well in the tutorial center setting, my students do not. Of the 11 students I have, 5 have tried to work in the tutorial center, and all have been unable to complete their schooling there. In fact, I have received multiple requests from caseworkers for my CHSVT campus to be reopened to community students, those not under DOC supervision, to attend class at CHSVT because other settings did not provide the level of support that student needed to feel successful. This is not due to a lack of professionalism by that staff, but my students require a level of accountability and intervention that the tutorial center does not provide. My classroom is located right in the middle of the Probation office where I have successfully created a rapport with the Probation Officers and caseworkers. We work as a team to provide the necessary services for students.

Not only do I have students who struggle with the structure of the tutorial center, but I also have several students whose level of reading remediation is quite severe, where they again, do not feel they can be successful outside of CHSVT. In the past month, I have seen a student being unable to read 3 letter words to being able to read 3 syllable words. The gains we make at CHSVT may be small to some, but to my students, they are invaluable. I could only hope you can imagine a young man of 26 finding such pride in himself for that accomplishment.

Additionally, I recently held a graduation for a sex offender whose only option was CHSVT as he is not allowed to go to the tutorial center, which offers classes to minors. Without CHSVT, the state runs the risk of affectively denying educational services to a minority group of people who are already maligned, but may be sincerely wishing to change themselves.

My hope for my students is to not see their education as represented by a mere piece of paper, but as a lifelong process. My students build cameras, write letters to Congress, design experiments, talk about the news, discuss books, just as we hope all high school students do. We talk about parenting, recovery, and healthy lifestyles. Yes, my students have made horrible mistakes in their lives, but through their education, CHSVT helps students to reflect on their mistakes and to grow from them by giving students the skills to persevere through the challenges of an institution that they failed to thrive in previously so that their children or their younger siblings do not follow in this path. Education is not a means to baby criminals, it is to prevent the next generation of criminals.

## Community High School of Vermont - March 1, 2017

It's my understanding that the Vermont House Education Committee is currently considering further cuts to Community High School of Vermont. As a parent, a taxpayer, a former School Board Director, and a CHSVT teacher for the last 11 years, I'd like to offer some observations on this.

- Community High School is part of the overall K-12 Educational system in Vermont. Most of our students are Vermonters who have not had success in their previous Vermont Schools and have dropped out, or been kicked out. We are the school of last resort for them, and we don't turn them away.
- Our students have a very high rate of Special Education histories. Special Education is expensive. A significant amount of our students have spent time in day treatment and residential educational programs which are *very* costly, and still were not successful. Many of them finally find success with Community High School of Vermont, and at a lower cost than their previous educational settings.
- Vermont has codified the rights of Vermonters to access services towards earning a High School Diploma, with no age limit (Flexible Pathways Legislation). There are Federal rights of access to education as well which extend to inmates. CHSVT is the vehicle for delivering these services in the Vermont DOC.
- The Department of Corrections has developed a new Case Plan Directive under which inmates without a High School Diploma, or with a significant academic skill deficit, are defined as having an "Education Need", and they are mandated to attend CHSVT courses. This is a new initiative, and there are large numbers of these inmates slated to begin accessing our services.
- Community High School is also beginning to align with the Behavioral Programming staff to together deliver coordinated Risk Reduction Services. Education is one piece of this research driven wrap-around approach. Much of the groundwork has been laid. Change comes slowly in DOC, but it is coming.
- National Data shows Education of inmates to be an exceptional investment.
- Many states are beginning to create schools in the mold of Community High School of Vermont, to aid in their goals to reduce recidivism and generally improve outcomes for inmates as part of sensible criminal justice reform, while Vermont has been moving in the opposite direction for years now, gutting our school time after time in an ill-informed, and frankly, shameful manner.
- I have taught within Public and Independent Schools in Vermont, and Community High School of Vermont has the most talented and dedicated group of educators I have ever worked with. It takes a special kind of talent and commitment to be successful with our population. Community High School of Vermont continues its difficult and vital work every day with inmate students despite financial setbacks, and would appreciate your support in *expanding* our program, so we can be more effective with the even greater population that we will soon be serving.
- I invite you to come visit our School at Northern State CF, talk to our students, see for yourself the work that we do. As you know our current students are not able to come to Montpelier to advocate themselves for their services, but many of them would be happy to tell you their educational stories, and the role that we have played in helping them transform their lives.

Bill Storz, Correctional Educator  
Northern State Correctional Facility, Newport, Vermont

**The Community High School of Vermont Education Program at the NECC Work Camp  
in St. Johnsbury, VT**

CHSVT has two full-time licensed teachers working at the St. Johnsbury work camp. There are a range of educational opportunities available at the “Camp”. In addition to earning high school diplomas or improving basic skills, an option for students is to earn industry-recognized credentials (IRCs). From July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2016, students here at the Work Camp earned a **record-breaking 400 credentials!** This was astonishing given that the camp was only half full for most of the fiscal year. The students this year were highly motivated individuals and we hope to keep the momentum going in FY’17..

One of the courses offers certifications from *The National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER)*. The teachers work jointly with the DOC Work Crew Leaders to teach and test the students for these nationally recognized workforce credentials.

In the past 12 months the following *NCCER* certifications were earned at the work camp:

- 36 *Basic Safety*
- 29 *Introduction to Construction Math*
- 27 *Introduction to Hand Tools*
- 23 *Introduction to Power Tools*
- 22 *Introduction to Construction Drawings*
- 23 *Basic Communication Skills*
- 21 *Basic Employability Skills*
- 22 *Basic Materials Handling*
- 17 *NCCER Core Curriculum* completions
- 220 Total *NCCER* IRCs earned**

**Additional IRCs earned from July 1 through June 30th**

- 38 (OSHA) 10-Hour General Industry Safety and Health**
- 41 (American Heart Association) HeartSaver First Aid and CPR with AED**
- 6 (National Restaurant Association) ServSafe Food Protection Manager Certification**

Students also are offered a VT Department of Health and HUD approved **Essential Maintenance Practices (EMP)** training for safe lead-paint and maintenance practices.

**67 EMP** certifications were earned.

Vermont's Agency of Transportation provides *Workzone Safety/Flagging* training to qualify individuals for work in the traffic safety field. VTrans did our first training in June. We hope to continue this as the students are eager for this and perhaps offer a 10-module Transportation Systems Academy in partnership with VTrans in FY'17.

**20 Workzone Safety** cards were earned.

CHSVT is accredited to award high school diplomas as an approved Independent School through New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and has also developed requirements and training for a *Workforce Readiness Certificate*.

**3 High School Diplomas**

**5 Workforce Readiness Certificates**

The educators also coordinate and host instructors and guests from other organizations that enrich the educational experience of the students, but that do not result in an actual credential. Two examples are that the Green Mountain United Way has offered a financial literacy class this fiscal year and the VT Humanities Council has provided an instructor and books for a *Read with Me* program for fathers of young children and books, materials for the *Vermont Reads* program and books for the *VOICES* program. We appreciate the support of our community partners and hope to expand the learning opportunities for our students over time.

Finally, a total of 125 individual students and over 75% of the current population of the men living at the work camp have participated in the education program at some point this fiscal year, and those who have not participated are mostly newcomers. Although the uncertainty about whether or not the work camp would be closed created some stress for all the staff and students here, we feel that we had a very successful and productive year.

JEREMY AMSDEN  
STUDENT AT  
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL OF VERMONT  
NORTHERN STATE CORECTIONAL FACILITY  
2995 GLENN ROAD  
NEWPORT VERMONT, 05855

To whom it may concern,

This letter is about the possible cuts to the Community High School budget.

First things first, I feel that the Community High School budget has already been cut too much. The Community High School is a resource second to none.

The teachers are doing an awesome job; take it from me. I was a child that couldn't learn anything in high school for one reason or another mostly because I was a teen alcoholic. Nowadays, twenty-five years later at the Community High School, I am learning things like geometry and algebra, financial skills and writing.

To summarize, the Community High School is the best resource in corrections; it is important that the inmates receive an education and be able to practice it in a positive, pro-social environment like the Community High School of Vermont.

Sincerely,

Jeremy L. Amsden

Dwight Tester  
546 State Farm Road  
Windsor, VT 05089

February 28, 2017

Representative David Sharpe, Chair  
Education Committee  
Vermont House of Representatives  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Mr. David Sharpe:

I am writing to you today because I am a 45 year old man who is at the Windsor work camp, and I am currently enrolled in Community High School here trying to get my high school diploma. Since my incarceration, I have also received my GED. I truly believe if any budget cuts are made to any type of school programming, it will hurt those who are or wanting to further their education. I have seen many men of all ages who cannot read or write at all, or they cannot do basic math problems. They work hard to learn what they can to further themselves and be productive members of society. While I was in Kentucky, I was a tutor, and I saw firsthand the progress other inmates made.

We need to have our teachers who take the time and come to our prisons to teach. They choose this profession because they want to make a difference in our lives. It is a proven fact that for those who take the time to learn or get an education while incarcerated, the recidivism rate drops dramatically. If five out of twenty inmates or even a hundred inmates get an education while incarcerated, then a difference is being made, crime rates go down, and more people tend not to come back to prison. That difference has to start with legislation. You are our voice, so speak loudly for us; don't make any budget cuts to the education programs because we need them. I am only one voice, but there are so many others who need to be heard, especially those of the teachers who make a difference in our lives. Even though we as inmates have made mistakes in our lives, we still deserve to have an education.

Thank you for your time and listening to me, one voice who wants to make a difference in not only my life but for others as well.

Sincerely,



Dwight Tester

P.S. If you do not think an education works, check my grammar and writing skills in this letter. I could not do this before. 😊

546 State Farm Rd.  
Windsor, VT  
February 28, 2017

Representative David Sharpe, Chair  
Education Committee  
Vermont House of Representatives  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Mr. Sharpe:

My name is Kevin O'Neil, and I am an inmate at Southern State Correctional Facility in Windsor, Vermont. I also attend the Community High school of Vermont located within the facility. I am writing to you today because I am concerned about the potential shutdown of S.E.S.C.F. compounded with more bad news of a proposed 1 million dollar budget cut to the C.H.S.V.T. around the state. My hope is that not only am I a voice for myself, but other inmates and my teachers.

I have achieved great things here at this facility that I don't believe I could have achieved anywhere else. The staff is great, they care and listen, and we are treated fairly. For this fact alone, I have been able to acquire so many different certifications such as Serve Safe, O.S.H.A. 30, First Aid/C.P.R., along with a wide variety of N.C.C.E.R. certifications. All of these will help me to be more employable, and I think that's what C.H.S.V.T. really strives for. We just don't sit here, but we make the best of our time to get us back on our feet so that when we are released we are able to be more responsible and productive.

One of the greatest certifications I recently acquired after about 10 months of hard work and great support from my teachers is the Workforce Readiness Certificate. This project has helped me to stay focused, persistent and motivated. I participated in a recycling project to include installing recycle bins around the facility as a science class and as a civic duty. We have done some hands on horticulture in a greenhouse setting in which we grew selected produce and even submitted to the Tunbridge World's winning several first, second, and third prizes. I have improved my math scores on CASAS because of the outstanding teaching ability of the staff. I have created an extensive portfolio with so much living, learning and working experience gained here at the school to show potential employers. On top of it all, the school has taught me to be more pro-social and that education is fun and not scary. I owe a great deal of thanks to the staff and their curriculum.

To sum it up, it is my opinion that cutting this wonderful school's budget would be nothing short of detrimental. Why would one take away something good to an inmate that aids in his or her rehabilitation? I hope that the state will invest more in education and keep a good thing going. Going to school in prison is beneficial and productive. I believe that C.H.S.V.T is therapeutic and will help reduce recidivism for inmates too. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kevin O'Neil

Kevin S. Martell – 13820  
S.E.S.C.F. Windsor Farm  
546 State Farm Road  
Windsor, VT 05089

Representative David Sharpe, Chair  
Education Committee  
Vermont House of Representatives  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

February 28, 2017

Dear Mr. Sharpe:

My name is Kevin S. Martell; I am currently a resident at the Southeast State Correctional Facility in Windsor. As a graduate of CHSVT's Workforce Readiness Program (July 25<sup>th</sup> 2016), I, would like to speak of reasons why ***not to*** cut the budget for educational services within the Vermont Department of Corrections- Community High School of Vermont, (CHSVT). I personally have seen first-hand the results of CHSVT's impact on those who are either mandated to or opt to attend CHSVT, and those results are huge; students learn and re-learn skills that they can apply to their lives not only while incarcerated, but also transfer those skills to the outside when they are released, especially the Workforce Readiness Program. There are five steps required for completion of the Workforce Readiness Certification which includes: **1) Orientation and Enrollment:** This is where we provide our H.S. Diploma information and or learning portfolio, life experience, work opportunities, and work experience. **2) Career Assessments:** This is where we participate in a battery of self-assessments that provide a baseline to work from; these include: Barriers to Employment Success (BESI), Career Decision Maker (CDM), and Job Attitude Success Inventory (JASI) along with Workforce Readiness Assessment (diagnostic and goals), Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) and lastly Strategic Instructional Model (SIMS). **3) Pre-Employment Skills:** This is where we learn how to write effective resumes, cover letters, obtain work reference letters (a minimum of 3), fill out Sample job applications (2 are required) and participate in mock interviews (a minimum of 2). **4) Transition Skills:** This includes: post-completion job search and/or post-secondary plan, plan for accessing digital copies post release(email), plan for securing forms of identification, financial management coursework (Money Smart), and

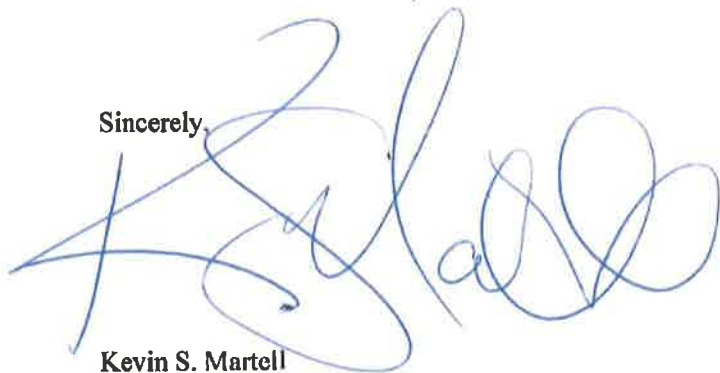


technology for employment purposes. We also work here at CHSVT - Windsor with a number of other state departments such as Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (V.S.A.C), Vermont Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation and other community resources. **5) Application of Employment Skills:** This includes, work-based learning (80-hours minimum), performance evaluation from supervisors, and lastly write a Workforce Readiness Assessment Reflection. This is an amazing program and should continue. The teacher work diligently to help all of us succeed in obtaining as much datum possible to complete our certification.

Community High School of Vermont continuously works tirelessly to accommodate those inmates who work, those who may have learning challenges, and as those who otherwise might not want to participate in educational services. The teachers make the learning environment safe, comfortable, fun, and challenging. Community High School also makes being locked-up a lot easier. Attending classes helps make the day go by faster, and in the process all of us have something to takeaway. I, myself, like others have been able to resume my college education through Adams State University's Extended Studies Program; CHSVT assisted me with connections to V.S.A.C. and continues to support me with my post-secondary education by allowing me to attend some classes which enrich my knowledge and skills. I also feel my participation in college courses (9 credits currently) is beneficial to other inmates because I have another perspective to bring to the table to share.

Obtaining a quality education is a likely antidote that contributes to a reduction in recidivism. In closing, I would like to respectfully request that this budgetary matter be carefully considered and evaluated to the nth degree. Thank you for your time and consideration in this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin S. Martell', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'K' and 'M'.

Kevin S. Martell

February 27, 2017

This is why we the students at MVRCF think Community High School of Vermont should be funded.

- 1) There's access to certifications that helps with employment.
- 2) People can earn high school diplomas that if not mandated would not have one.
- 3) O.S.H.A certification
- 4) Being able to keep a schedule and maintaining a work ethic.
- 5) serve safe
- 6) Culinary certification.
- 7) Getting a job and maintaining one with skills learned in here, and it reduces people returning to jail.
- 8) Accepting responsibility, and improving time management.
- 9) Ability to plan for a job a resume and researching for a job.
- 10) Desire to learn and improve.
- 11) Improved time management
- 12) Learning financial management
- 13) Learning to motivate others, getting others to come to school even though they are not mandated.
- 14) Learning how to socialize with others in a civil manner.
- 15) Learning to solve problems and explaining things to others so they can understand it.
- 16) Learning how to plan for when you're out of jail.
- 17) Learning to interview and talk to others, and to be open-minded about others opinions, on studying the educational curriculum.
- 18) Learning how to analyze data and facts and put them into essays/graphs.
- 19) Learning math and English that is used in society.
- 20) Being able to edit your work
- 21) Understanding the big picture instead of focusing on small details.

We the undersigned think Community High School of Vermont should be funded.

1. William O Bailey

2. John H. Hays

3. Eric J. [unclear]

4. Frank Boudich

5. Mark H. [unclear]

6. John O. [unclear]

7. Andie J. [unclear]

8. Charles H. Emery III

9. Gerry Cogg

10. Ray [unclear]

11. [unclear]

12. Nam Bui Vu

13. Starr, R. <sup>#31013</sup>

14. Warren Lake

15. [unclear]

16. Jeremy C.

17. JASON P

18. Robert [unclear]

19. [unclear]

20. Charles [unclear]

21. Frederic [unclear]

22. [unclear]

23. W. J. Rathburn

24. Tom Lewis

25. Brian J. Clino

26. Steve [unclear]

27. Alfred [unclear]

28. Steve Colford

29. Adam Palmateer

30. \_\_\_\_\_

31. \_\_\_\_\_

32. \_\_\_\_\_

33. \_\_\_\_\_

34. \_\_\_\_\_

35. \_\_\_\_\_

We the undersigned think Community High School of Vermont should be funded.

1. John John (Erik Backer) 19. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Steve Rodolph 20. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Trees of Ally 21. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Claron E. Alley 22. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Ugma. Scull 23. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Dorothy Battelle 24. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Knight 25. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Wagon 26. \_\_\_\_\_
9. ROLLS 27. \_\_\_\_\_
10. AM DAN (3-4) 28. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Michael J. Gagnier 29. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Cathy D. Dwyer 30. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Thomas Ball 31. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Henry Groves 32. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Walter Godwin 33. \_\_\_\_\_
16. JAVON WRIGHT 34. \_\_\_\_\_
17. Alan Fitzgerald 35. \_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_\_\_

We the undersigned think Community High School of Vermont should be funded.

- |                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. <u>Dameon Macomber</u>             | 19. _____ |
| 2. <u>Donnie Lopez</u>                | 20. _____ |
| 3. <u>Justin Thompson</u>             | 21. _____ |
| 4. <u>Robert Magye</u>                | 22. _____ |
| 5. <u>Alex Larusse</u>                | 23. _____ |
| 6. <u>Jason Champagne</u>             | 24. _____ |
| 7. <u>JAMES Veron</u>                 | 25. _____ |
| 8. <u>CHRISTOPHER J. HOPE JR.</u>     | 26. _____ |
| 9. <u>[Signature]</u>                 | 27. _____ |
| 10. <u>[Signature] JUSTIN W. HOPE</u> | 28. _____ |
| 11. <u>[Signature]</u>                | 29. _____ |
| 12. <u>Robert Hudson</u>              | 30. _____ |
| 13. <u>Chad Colton</u>                | 31. _____ |
| 14. <u>[Signature]</u>                | 32. _____ |
| 15. <u>Javon Wright</u>               | 33. _____ |
| 16. _____                             | 34. _____ |
| 17. _____                             | 35. _____ |
| 18. _____                             |           |

Hey Lisa,

I had a few free minutes, and wanted to take the time to reply to your email.

Thing's with Voc Rehab went quite well actually, as it appears that with my prior flight training, along with my 61hrs logged flight with the FAA i will only require an additional 19hrs of training, along with any ratings for which i see fit (ie, night flight, twin prop, or jet power) in order to acquire my PPL (private Pilot License) The information for which you provided, lead to me making contacts within the flight community in Middlebury.

and through their guidance it seems as though i will be able to achieve funding, perhaps as soon as mid-april. So again i thank you for stepping out there to locate the thing's in which i was having trouble in doing myself. (On a side note) it is understandable how one could become discouraged within your line of work, not only in the aspect of proposed budget cuts but in the sheer fact your school location is within a correctional facility, and most commonly the least expected place to find positive people, whom want to make positive change. This in turn would make your job detail more strenuous and stressful.

At the same time i present this: I met you, at an all time low in my life. I was angry with everyone, but mostly myself for allowing thing's to get so out of hand, that it landed me inside a facility. Being VT DOC had a law in effect (U-22) i knew that education was going to be a requirement, having come from another regional facility in which i had refused to cooperate both with educational and security staff. I met you while i was in solitary Confinement.

At first, your constant attempts to gain my interest in education were rather irritating, but you stayed persistent. You followed up with everything you said that you would do (ie, contacting numerous schools, hunting down all my credits) that it actually became unfair for me to continue being so uncooperative.

The reason, your name sticks so well to my memory, was due to your Persistent nature, and your truth to keeping your word. In a place so surrounded with negative people it's very difficult to maintain a positive attitude (staff & inmate alike) that often times people who are employed in such an environment (that come with positivity) often leave, or in turn become a part of that environment.

Your approach at teaching, is exactly what is lacking in alot of other schools (and perhaps humanity as well) for determination, persistency, and truth can go a long way especially when dealing with people that have had just the opposite.

I too am saddened to hear of the cuts being purposed to CHSVT, fore i believe that all these cuts will do is in turn raise the number of re-offenders. not to mention the numerous U-22 people that will lack educational needs while serving the term for which was sentenced, and in some cases could spell the end to a youthful offenders educational career.

In a time for which, budgets are tight, inmate numbers are high, taxes through the roof, its rather discouraging that educational funding even be considered for the chopping block. Surely seems logical it will become a greater issue, should these "new" budgets be passed.

Regardless of what happens, Your a great teacher Lisa, and your true to your word (alot of people lack that) and of all the thing's i have learned, no door closes without an even better one opening. So should this go through, please don't let the negative impact effect the positive person that you are..."you were obviously meant for greater thing's"

Thanks Again for all you have done Lisa!!!

Jeremy Benoit

# Student Voices In Support Of Community High School Of Vermont

The Community High School of Vermont (CHSVT) is an effective program to help break the cycle of poverty and lower recidivism. Vermont communities only stand to gain by investing public resources into education as a tool to improving our collective lives.

CHSVT proudly offers Vermont offenders the opportunity to receive an education, learn job and life skills and become productive members of society. Cutting the CHSVT program, under the guise of "saving money," will ultimately cost the State considerably more in the long run. We know this because study after study shows that education and employment are the only real means most offenders have to exit the correctional system and diminish their need for public assistance.

**CHSVT students are among the best voices in this conversation about why the Vermont Senate should fully fund the CHSVT.** Especially troubling to them

is a House budget amendment that would remove the statutory requirement that CHSVT classrooms be offered at all local Probation and Parole locations. They would like it struck.

CHSVT employees are not alone in their resolve to fully fund the program. Here are some quotes straight from mouths of the Vermonters using CHSVT about how the program has benefitted them, why it matters and why it should be funded.

"I think a diploma is important because you cannot get fair in life without it. I want to graduate. I want to get off of furlough. I want to get a good paying job. **CHSVT is going to help me attain my goals.**"

-Chris Corrigan, Barre, VT

"I am a student at CHSVT. I dropped out when I was sixteen because of anxiety and depression, which lead to substance abuse. After a few years, I found myself in some legal trouble. Options are minimal with no high school degree. I made some mistakes and now I want to better myself. **All I am asking is for our state to believe in young adults and not close down CHSVT. A lot of bright futures are depending on you.**"

-CHSVT student, Barre, VT

"My biggest and most important reason and belief on why CHSVT should continue on is because there are going to be **kids in the future who need such a great opportunity.**"

-Chester Duprey, Barre, VT

Continued on back...

"I'm still enrolled in the Community High School and will be graduating in the Spring of this year. **Now that I have a fulltime job, my life has changed dramatically.** I now have my own apartment, car, and get to see my kids all the time now."

"I was someone who had a hard time in the past. Since I have been here, the staff and I have developed a great relationship. They have done their very best to individualize my education in a way that I can learn, and I like to learn. I have made incredible strides as a learner, a student, and as a person in general. I have never felt smart in my entire life. CHSVT has pulled the intelligent person out of me that everyone always told me was there. **I feel like I have a fighting chance in the real world. I feel like THIS school and THESE teachers made it possible.**"

-Jordan D. Powers, Windsor

"My name is Troy Quintin. I have two children and am 20 years old. I have made some mistakes that reflect negatively on my character, but people need to understand that I was 15 when I got charges with everything. Those stupid mistakes I made as a 15 year old child have followed me into my adult life. CHSVT provides me the essential things that I need to learn and grow. This environment is much different than other schools; the class size helps. **Being with students that share similar experiences allow me to concentrate and accomplish more things academically.** This school plays a big part in my life. I need to graduate so that I can pursue a career that will help me support my family for the rest of my life instead of working paycheck to paycheck. Without the CHSVT, many students will suffer and the odds are that they won't receive a diploma due to the cuts."

-Troy Quintin, Williamstown



Vermont State Employees' Association

155 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602 Phone: (802) 223-5247  
Fax: (802) 223-4035 Email: [vsea@vsea.org](mailto:vsea@vsea.org) Website: [www.vsea.org](http://www.vsea.org)