



CASTLETON UNIVERSITY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF VERMONT
JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE
LYNDON STATE COLLEGE
VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Testimony, Senate Health & Welfare Committee
Mental Health System and Workforce
February 15, 2017

Vermont State Colleges System Contributions to Mental Health in Vermont

- The VSCS enrolls over 10,000 Vermonters.
- Almost half will be the first in their families to earn a degree.
- 95% of U.S. jobs created since the Great Recession went to college degree holders.

Attaining a College Degree = Increased Health and Happiness

Oreopoulos, P. & Salvanes, K. G. (2011). Priceless: the nonpecuniary benefits of schooling. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 25(1), 159-184.

Trostel, Philip. (2015). It's Not Just the Money: The Benefits of College Education to Individuals and Society. *Lumina Issue Papers*, October 14, 2015.

<https://www.luminafoundation.org/resources/its-not-just-the-money>

Mental Health Workforce Issues Are Vermont Workforce Issues

To address urgent workforce and economic development needs, Vermont will need to increase the number of Vermonters who have a postsecondary credential of value to 70% by 2025.

<http://70x2025vt.org/>

The key challenges are access and affordability:

- 35% of low-income Vermont H.S. graduates continue on to college, compared to 60% non-economically disadvantaged.
- 60,000 working-age Vermonters have some college education but no degree.

Affordability

Average yearly net cost of college for Vermonters, after all federal, state, and institutional grant aid is awarded, for students in the bottom quintile of family income (\$0-30,000):

From US College Scorecard: <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov>

Vermont Tech	\$15,069
Johnson	\$13,943
Castleton	\$13,276
Lyndon	\$12,736
UVM	\$10,742
Community College of Vermont	\$9,962

Cost of College = tuition + living expenses

VSCS Programs Related to Vermont's Mental Health Workforce

Castleton University:

[B.A. Psychology](#)

[B.S.W. in Social Work](#)

Community College of Vermont:

[Substance Abuse Services Certificate](#)

[A.S. Human Services](#),

with [VSCS Direct Admissions Pathways](#) to Castleton, Johnson, Lyndon

Johnson State College:

[B.A. Psychology with a Concentration in Pre-Professional Counseling](#)

[B.A. In Wellness and Alternative Medicine](#)

[M.A. in Counseling](#)

Lyndon State College:

[B.A. Psychology and Human Services](#),

with 4+1 option for M.A. in Counseling

Addressing Workforce Development

Governor's Summit on VT's Substance Abuse Workforce (April 17, 2017)

Themes to be addressed: career pathways, licensure requirements, loan forgiveness/affordability, pay equity, professional development

Prior Learning Assessment

Community College of Vermont & Vermont Care Network

A project to deliver a PLA portfolio course to current employees statewide, via teleconference (in progress)

Encouraging Aspiration: Flexible Pathways Dual Enrollments (Spring 2016)

Introduction to Psychology 47

Human Growth and Development 22

Introduction to Sociology 13

Introduction to Health Psychology 5

Introduction to Human Services 1