

Hello House Education Committee members,

Thank you again for letting me and GIV students testify about the Governor's Institutes to you last week!

I am writing to follow up on Rep. Hooper's question about what it would take to increase GIV's capacity to serve 5% of the VT high school population instead of the 2% we currently serve. The short answer is an annual appropriation of approximately **\$850,000** would help us grow our budget to \$2.2 million where we could support that number. (The current appropriation is \$192,654.) This amount would underwrite costs for students living in poverty and add stipends to permit more of the most disadvantaged students to enroll. It would take 5-7 years for GIV build the infrastructure to support 150% growth in capacity.

A more modest goal of a 12.5% enrollment increase to 676 students, which also triples health and medical education capacity and could be completed within two years, would necessitate a line item adjustment from \$192,654 to \$285,000.

Thank you for the opportunity to research and answer the question. Two other updates I'd like to share with you:

Yesterday [WVNY](#) and [WCAX](#) covered a GIV Winter Weekend where 75 high schoolers pursued topics like microcontrollers, leadership and journalism. [Watch the video here.](#)

Also, last Friday I spoke to Education Secretary French, and he said that if the legislature asks him, he will support increasing the line item for GIV as he thinks it is well worth expanding.

Thank you so much for your kind attention and all your important work.

Karen

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"The importance of [GIV] programs, for me personally and for society in general, cannot be overstated. To me courses were interesting and engaging, but they were just a small fraction of the experience. It is the people who impacted me (and continue to do so) that I appreciate more than anything else. I had never been so challenged by my peers before, in fact, I had no idea that there were so many passionate and competitive [young people] in Vermont. What I took away from GIV was more than knowledge; I took away a motivation that is far transcendent of subject matter or time."

- 2017 GIV participant

Read more at www.giv.org/whygiv!