CASTLETON UNIVERSITY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF VERMONT
NORTHERN VERMONT UNIVERSITY
VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

VERMONT
— STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM —

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FY2020 One-Time Appropriations Funds Supporting Retention & Graduation Improvements
February, 2020 Update

1. <u>Provide "train the trainer" professional development for faculty to improve instructional design and use of Canvas, the system's new learning management system.</u>

Why this is important: best practice use of the learning management system will increase the data available for real-time retention and academic success interventions.
Accomplishments to date: 26 faculty from all institutions participated in a two-day Canvas Best Practices workshop and are implementing new uses of the learning management system in their courses. 8 of these faculty will serve as faculty peer trainers at their home institutions this spring.

2. <u>Use best practices to redesign high-enrollment, lower-division courses to use low/no cost textbooks (open educational resources), and make these redesigned courses available for use system-wide.</u>

Why this is important: Textbook prices are a significant affordability and retention issue for VSCS students. Prices have risen more than 3 times the rate of inflation since 1977, and a recent national survey found student-identified impacts on enrollment and course grades due to textbook costs.
Accomplishments to date: 6 faculty and courses have been selected for a first round of supported redesign to take place this spring, using a process intended for expansion over time as resources allow.

3. <u>Provide professional development and enhanced implementation support for Aviso, the system's new predictive analytics advising software.</u>

Why this is important: Advising resources historically have focused on those students most visible by virtue of either their high success or significant struggles. By implementing best practices use of predictive analytics, the VSCS can better leverage limited resources to improve outcomes particularly for students "in the middle" who have the potential to be more successful with targeted, real-time, and low-cost interventions.
Accomplishments to date: over 50 faculty and staff across the system have participated in professional development, early implementation planning, software configuration and training, and are currently piloting the software.

Castleton University focus: develop video-based student success information segments featuring Castleton students and topics such as health and wellness, co-curricular options, and study abroad.

CCV focus: train and support specialized student advising staff in new evidence-based coaching methodologies shown to generate measurable results impacting retention and graduation rates.

Northern Vermont University focus: support faculty-led professional development in using Canvas, Aviso, and Open Education Resources use through its new Center for Teaching & Learning.

Vermont Tech focus: identify student subpopulations for focused retention efforts and develop new institutional processes that will leverage Aviso for use with these populations.