

Theresa Utton-Jerman

Subject: FW: State Funding for Higher Education in Vermont

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Good Morning,

Please accept this email note as evidence of my support for increasing state financial support for the Vermont State Colleges and UVM to the levels that we saw in the 1980s, when 51% of the funding came from the state.

Vermont enjoys one of the highest high school graduation rates, but sees one of the lowest rates of students going on to college. This is very much due to the current costs of college. A student's state college system should be more in reach than what ours currently is. I am a faculty member at Castleton University, and I see first hand how the financial burden of school is so very heavy for our students. It distracts them time and time again from their studies as well as their well-being. In-state students, are taking on huge amounts of debt to get a bachelor's degree. This debt is not proportional to the costs of living as they were 30-40 years ago.

Please work to provide more state money to our state institutions of higher education.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Marybeth Lennox-Levins