



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT IS

VERMONT'S UNIVERSITY

Fueling the future of Vermont and its people.

January 2020

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF VERMONTERS *and their access to higher education*

4,182
enrolled Vermonters
(Total student body = 13,548)

1,105
Vermonters received degrees

27%
of in-state undergraduates
completing a degree in 2018-19 were
first-generation college students

31%
of first-year Vermont
students are **Pell-eligible**

16%
increase in graduate enrollment
over 5 years

92% of graduates are employed
or continuing their education in
graduate school within
6 months of graduation
(3-year average, Classes of 2016-18)

OF THOSE EMPLOYED

69% of Vermont graduates
work in Vermont

31% of out-of-state graduates
work in Vermont

- **44%** of Vermont students attend UVM tuition-free, due to direct financial aid support.
- **86%** of Vermont students receive scholarships or financial aid.
- **91%** of Vermont first-year students return for their sophomore year.
- **74%** of Vermont students graduate from UVM in 4 years, a higher rate than Vermonters achieve at all other in-state publics and out-of-state private schools, according to a VSAC survey.

UVM IS AN ECONOMIC ENGINE *for the state of Vermont*

4,233

faculty and staff are employed by UVM, the second largest employer in the state.

33,614

UVM alumni live and work in Vermont, creating "brain gain" for the state.

\$144M

in awarded grants and contracts in 2018, the vast majority from out of state

\$1.33B

The annual amount UVM contributes in direct and indirect economic activity to Vermont.

INVESTING IN UVM IS INVESTING IN VERMONT'S FUTURE

Half of UVM's state funding directly supports land-grant agriculture, medicine, and extension education.

The other half of state funding directly supports Vermont student scholarships and financial aid.

Average financial aid for Vermonters:
\$12,822
(41% discount)

Average debt nationally (The Project on Student Debt):
\$29,200
Average debt for all in-state students:
\$18,474



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT'S PLAN FOR

ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT WITH THE STATE OF VERMONT

January 2020

The University of Vermont is requesting support to fund workforce preparation programs and to expand engagement and partnerships with private, public, and nonprofit entities throughout the state. The focus of these efforts is to respond directly and comprehensively to the challenges clearly articulated by Gov. Phil Scott—an aging population, the need for additional skilled workers to meet the needs of new and existing businesses, and inadequate growth in the number of well-paying jobs.

UVM is uniquely positioned to help Vermont evolve and efficiently capitalize on its many resources. In addition to tackling the challenges outlined by the Governor, the proposed initiatives are fully consistent with the university's land grant mission, identified by President Suresh Garimella as one of three overarching strategic priorities of his administration (the others being student success, and enhanced focus on areas of UVM strength).

To increase its effectiveness in partnering with the state in the areas of workforce development, retention, and growth, UVM is requesting a \$2M investment. These targeted funds will assist in accomplishing the following:

SUPPORTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INTERNSHIPS

- ▲ Better alignment and coordination across campus will ensure students are introduced early to internship opportunities with private industries, non-profits, and other organizations in the state. Students often wait until their senior year to begin a job search, and are unaware of employment opportunities within the state. The proposed effort will help our students become aware of the job opportunities within Vermont from their very first year, and help them imagine and plan for future lives and careers in the state.
- ▲ Many employers in the state are not well versed in what it takes to engage students, introduce them to opportunities at their organizations, and cultivate them as future employees. We will focus on mentoring a broad range of organizations to better connect with our students—in areas ranging from agriculture to manufacturing, biotech to defense, and non-profit to governmental/public sector opportunities.
- ▲ Our alumni in Vermont and elsewhere are anxious to play a role in helping the state. They are eager to give back to the university and assist students, and we need to be better-positioned to channel these energies in service of our interest in workforce training, retention, and growth.
- ▲ Outcomes of this effort will be measured by tracking the increase in connections and internships for UVM students in companies based in the state, the financial support provided by organizations targeted at hiring interns, and job offers and retention data.



ATTRACTING OUT-OF-STATE ALUMNI BACK TO VERMONT

- ▲ Another aspect of alumni engagement is demonstrating to those who have left the state the benefits of returning. There are proven methods to accomplish this, but it will require a concerted effort involving specialized staffing, which the state funding would support.
- ▲ Outcomes of this effort will be measured by the number of alumni of all higher education institutions in the state who return to work in Vermont.

PURSUING COMPREHENSIVE INDUSTRY-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

- ▲ Examples of such partnerships include work with Agilent (to build on the Biotek connection), Unilever (to build on the Ben & Jerry's and Seventh Generation connections), GlobalFoundries (to ensure the company stays in Vermont and to assist in educating its workforce), and National Life (to offer a partnership to help meet workforce as well as research and development needs). This will require a dedicated corporate-partnerships focus within the university, to be brought about with support from the state funds.
- ▲ Outcomes will be measured by tracking the number, quality, and depth of partnerships established; the number of students engaged; the number of workers educated; and the amount of funds committed by companies to support this effort.

With support from the state funds requested, UVM will create an "Office of Engagement" that will serve as the front door for the entire state. President Garimella led a similar, highly successful operation at Purdue University. Likewise, the UVM office will field all inquiries from across the state and connect them to the appropriate resources and expertise at UVM. This office will be central to actualizing the university's solemn commitment to its land grant mission.



UVM'S LAND GRANT MISSION IS PARAMOUNT

An op-ed by President Garimella published in the Rutland Herald and Times Argus Jan. 14, 2020

Against the back wall of my UVM office sits an antique wooden desk. Its surface is bare of books and paper because it serves no mere utilitarian purpose. As the desk that once belonged to Vermont Sen. Justin Morrill, author of the Morrill Act of 1862 establishing the country's first land grant universities, it's an inspirational symbol for me — a daily reminder of UVM's status as one of the nation's first land grants and of the solemn responsibilities that come with that designation.

Count me as a true believer in the land grant mission and among its greatest fans. The first land grants, so-called because the U.S. government donated federal land to each state to establish a university, were a brand new idea: higher education for everyday people focused on the practical subjects of agriculture and the mechanical arts, whose purpose was to improve the economic and cultural well-being of the people in their state.



It was UVM's status as a land grant that, in no small part, drew me to the university. Why am I so passionate about our land grant mission? Because I am a strong supporter of the social contract at the heart of that mission. And because Vermont, as much as any state in the nation, faces a series of daunting challenges that a land grant university like UVM is powerfully qualified to address. Take one that Governor Scott laid out in sobering detail in his recent State of the State address: the existential threat to Vermont's future represented by our shrinking workforce.

How can UVM help address this crisis, which is projected to reach a tipping point in a short five years, when the number of Vermonters who are not working will equal the number who are? By taking full advantage of a remarkable renewable resource: the nearly 2,500 young people who graduate from UVM every year with bachelor's, advanced and medical degrees, many of whom come from out of state.

Currently, about 40 percent of our undergraduates stay in Vermont to work after graduation. But many other students tell us they would like to establish their careers in Vermont if more good jobs that matched their interests were available.

UVM is hard at work to help create those employment opportunities by supporting the job creation initiatives of the state and incubators like the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies. We do this by spinning off new companies based on our faculty's research, by forming partnerships with large corporations like Google that not only fund research by our faculty and students but could potentially establish satellite operations in the state, and by ramping up our global engagement to attract investment from other countries where UVM has a research and educational presence.



There are many other ways UVM engages in its land grant mission of partnering with Vermonters to address the state's challenges. Many people know of UVM Extension's nationally acclaimed work helping Vermont farmers tackle everything from farm viability to environmental issues. Less known are the many other UVM programs designed to help improve the lives of Vermonters.

For instance, with Senator Leahy's help, UVM has established the Rural Center of Excellence on Substance Use Disorders in the Larner College of Medicine and the UVM Medical Center to confront the state's opioid epidemic. Each spring, UVM's Philosophy Department spearheads Philosophy Week, a series of public events held around the state that encourage Vermonters to wrestle with life's most significant questions. And Vermont EPSCoR and the Vermont Genetics Network, statewide programs centered at UVM that bring in nearly \$8 million in federal funding annually, make sophisticated technology and learning opportunities available to Vermont high schools and colleges, promote workforce development and enhance a culture of research in the state. In all, there are more than 200 programs at the university designed to help Vermont and Vermonters. That's good news, but the unfortunate truth is too few Vermonters are aware of them.

To address this knowledge gap, we plan to restructure existing resources and look for ways to partner with the state, to create a kind of front door to UVM that will make it easy and convenient for communities, nonprofits, businesses, schools and others to learn of and tap into the university's resources. Stay tuned for the details.

In an influential 1999 report, the Kellogg Commission called on institutions of higher learning to abandon their ivory towers and become "engaged universities." UVM was a pioneer in that effort and, during my tenure, it is my goal to further expand our involvement with issues of concern throughout Vermont.

Engaging with the state not only helps Vermont, it benefits the university. We enrich the educational experience of our students by giving them a real-world laboratory in which to deepen their classroom learning. We broaden our faculty's research portfolios. And we serve our highest and best use as a land grant institution by bringing critical resources, our people and our expertise, to bear on the problems facing the communities we serve.

The historic wooden desk I keep close by will continue to inspire me. And I will ensure that UVM's land grant mission — to help the state confront its challenges and shape a bright future for all Vermonters — will remain a top priority for Vermont's university.

For more examples of the university's engagement: go.uvm.edu/engage