

Theresa Utton-Jerman

Subject: Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations MONDAY FEB. 8

Respectfully submitting input for the BUDGET discussions regarding VSC,

ALL levels of Education in these challenging times must remain a priority in these transformational and challenging times we are living through in our world.

- 1) We must keep an eye to preparing our current and future generation of Vermonters to have the BEST access to the knowledge, skills, tools and resources needed to live productive, meaningful and economically sustaining lives.
- 2) We also want to prepare them to contribute and serve in the larger US and global world community.

Higher education must be a priority in this intergenerational link.

- 1) The VSC is making great efforts to review and transform the education model to make it financially more sustainable while still meeting the needs of our students and sustain the economy in diverse locations in VT.
- 2) The STATE needs to support this effort.
- 3) PLEASE review the Chancellor's office FY 2022 request in depth to understand the new proposals and financial requirements.

Key points to remember:

- 1) The incredible value the campuses bring to their local communities and the state.
- 2) That our students need an affordable, local option for college. We also benefit from out of state and international students who participate in the VSC and VT community.
- 3) The people of VT gave a clear message that closing campuses and limiting flexibility in our statewide community for education is NOT a good option.
- 4) We can certainly capitalize on technology to streamline certain courses of study, but this should not be at the cost of diverse and enriching CLASSROOM based education once the pandemic allows for normal educational models.

My advocacy IS for the GREATER GOOD of our system, for the students, faculty, communities and for the overall health and benefit of our STATE to maintain HIGHER education as a HIGH PRIORITY in our culture, experience, and future workforce. I am a part time faculty member at CU. I teach on a semester by semester contractual basis for very minimal wages and have no benefits. I teach and participate as a volunteer on various projects and committees because I LOVE what I do and VALUE the meaningful interactions and learning that I have the PRIVILEGE of sharing with students and faculty. I teach courses in Social Work and Trauma Certificate programs. Students in my courses and the courses taught by other faculty are clear that the learning and knowledge gained is life changing for them!

Thank you for your service and work on behalf of the people and communities of VT and our students!

Marian Kurath