

Theresa Utton-Jerman

Subject: Written Comment on the State Budget

From: Saba, Bobby

Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 4:00 PM

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Hello! My name is Bobby Saba and I am a senior in the Atmospheric Sciences program at NVU - Lyndon. Four years ago, I came up to the Northeast Kingdom from Mansfield, Massachusetts to tour a small school in Vermont that had one of the best (well...I think it's the best) Broadcast Meteorology programs in the entire country. From the minute I stepped on campus, I knew this was where I wanted to be. I still remember telling my mom when we got in the car after the tour that this was where I was going to get my degree.

Fast forward to now and so much has changed! I was able to use college as a fresh start. I struggled in high school and needed that fresh start. I wasn't the best student, at a bigger school where it was easy to fly under the radar. Coming to NVU has proved to be the best decision I have ever made. It has given me and so many others the opportunity to create a new path for ourselves, get out of our comfort zone, and excel in whatever field we have chosen to go into.

In addition to my role as a full-time student, I am the president of our student chapter of the American Meteorological Society or AMS, the coordinator of Student Office Professionals in the admissions office, an RA, math tutor, and student forecaster. I wouldn't be able to do any of those things if I didn't come up to Lyndon. Whether it's going storm chasing with my professor, winning the national student conference of the year award for the national AMS, or being the recipient of the NOAA Hollings Scholarship, one of the most prestigious scholarships in the field, the opportunities go beyond titles. Upon graduation, I plan on attending graduate school to pursue a higher degree in the field. I hope to use my passion for severe weather and tornadoes to improve tornadic forecasting and save lives across the country. Like so many other graduates of the prestigious atmospheric sciences program at NVU, I'll be bringing national recognition to the NVU program and to the great state of Vermont through my future work.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the state. Especially over the last couple of years, your support is the reason I can continue my education in the wonderful state of Vermont. However, think of the opportunity students would have with your continued support. You could be funding the next Nobel prize winner, next Olympic trainer, or even the next cancer-curing doctor. To fund the full 48 million wouldn't just secure the future of the Vermont State College system, but the future of our society.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Regards,

Bobby Saba

NVU - Lyndon AMS & NWA President

B.S Atmospheric Sciences

A.S Broadcast and Digital Journalism

Northern Vermont University Class of 2022