

Hello,

My name is Ryan Cooney from Springfield, and I am a senior within the Professional Pilot Technology program at Vermont Tech. For the last two years, I have also served as the Student Trustee on the Vermont State College System Board of Trustees. Today I am here to voice my support for increasing the allocation of funds to the Vermont State College System. Like many other students, I chose to seek an education that was close to home, of good quality, and provided excellent opportunities, while also being within my budget. The VSCS fulfills this mission for numerous Vermonters and their families.

As the system transitions, and the residential colleges unify into Vermont State University, it is critical that funding and support for the VSCS continue. Vermont State University is poised to be a first among its peers as the first truly hybrid University. But in order to be successful, we need a strong foundation laid.. I encourage and recommend that the base appropriation for the VSCS be increased, and that the bridge funding be allocated in full, to ensure that the needs of the system can be met. These actions will help to transform our great state in numerous ways, which I am happy to discuss in more detail at any time. For the over ten thousand students and families that utilize the Vermont State College System, I thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your time today.