

BURLINGTON TECHNICAL CENTER

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Btc.bsdtv.org

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Good afternoon. I am Jason Gingold, Director of the Burlington Technical Center. We serve 11 different high schools, 6 different counties and over 245 students, 45% of our students receive free and reduced meals, 7% of our students are English Language learners, and 25% are on a service plan, at times we are working with some of the most vulnerable populations.

As president of the Vermont Association of Career and Technical Education Directors I would like to explain why the Career centers support Governor Scott's Better ADJUSTMENT ACT specifically to support student learning and offset tuition due to loss of enrollment.

As Governor Scott stated during his State of the State Address last week a major focus on Career and Technical Education is important

- Career Centers connects students and adults with internships, apprenticeships and great jobs
- Career Centers connects students and adults with post-secondary training and college pathways
- A focus on Career training will help fill the void of nurses and healthcare workers, construction and trades, aviation & transportation technicians, manufacturing employees and hospitality employees that are all vital to the state's growth and economy.
- And by making "smart" changes to the current policy to support career centers will also have positive impacts on the state's labor market and meet the Governor's goals.

I remind you of the Governor's story about his own career direction and some of the smartest students in career and technical education because they are the ones, who we call to fix our vehicles, trucks, planes, our infrastructure, our nurses and doctors and our teachers.

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By supporting the Better Adjustment Act you will be supporting Career and Technical Education and assisting the offsetting increases of high tuitions because of an outdated funding formula.

Our recruitment efforts as you know is the sole sources of income in which allows our centers to operate. Without a consistent and steady six semester average our tuition fee will fluctuate (more disincentive for students to attend) and we may not get back to full enrollment by 2025. Thus, slowing down the Governor's plan to address labor shortages in the business that are finding it difficult to hire qualified employees.

Supporting the BAA will offset the loss of enrollments career centers had because students are unable to visit tech centers because of COVID 19 The impact of COVID 19 effects our future enrollments and our outreach and recruitment efforts.

Over 800 10th graders are not coming to visit our Burlington Tech center this winter and meeting their potential teachers and developing career pathways the Governor described last week.

Burlington Technical Center will be running virtual Open Houses in February in order to attract students to any of our 11 programs so we can assist students in accessing the Vermont Career pathways and be college career ready.

You will be supporting career centers many who had no mechanism for accessing ESSR funds and for those that could in their host district were only able to access for "supplies" versus personnel hires needed to support students in mental health crisis.

The 3 independent career center districts were unable to access funds at all even though they felt the same burden of supporting students through a pandemic.

There was no mechanism for Career Centers to access the funds with shared high school districts and there is still confusion today if centers are eligible. Even with a memo from the Agency of Education.

COVID 19 impacts and lack of EESR funding to the career centers has exposed the reality we all have known that the competitive funding model of tuition high school students to Technical Centers is outdated and does not

serve the goal of ensuring every high school student graduates with a career plan of; enrollment, enlistment or employment.

If the goal is to have prepared graduates who are ready to enter either the workforce and or post-secondary education, we need to ensure the barriers to access are clear. Supporting the Better Adjustment Act will not only give a lifeline to the career centers it will also be aligned with the Governor's plan to increase the workforce development opportunities in many of the high need labor market areas throughout the state.

Burlington Technical Center provides the region with graduate's that can help turn around the COVID 19 impact in our state.

Our 96% student placement rate in 2020 where students were enrolled, enlisted or employed after they left BTC which contributes to the workforce of our region and state's economy.

To summarize along with the other Career Center Directors, we are asking for support of the Better Adjustment Act, support to offset low enrollment numbers due to an increase in the number of students who have un-enrolled in Career Education because of COVID.

And because of the difficulty in recruiting new students for next year's programs.

And because of the inability for most career centers to access ESSR Funding in meeting the demands of high social emotional student needs from our most vulnerable populations.

And as you are a captured audience, I would like to remind you Burlington Technical Center needs your support in funding as we lost our building in 2020 due to PCB's and we need your financial support which will allow us to continue providing an educated, trained and certified workforce in our region.

An investment in the Better Adjustment Act and the Career Centers of Vermont is investing in the continued development of getting Vermont out of the gap in labor market demands and rebuilding our economy. Every career center is very proud of what we have accomplished this year and this

is how you can help us be a continued presence in our region and community.

**BTC
Programs**

**Advanced Manufacturing • Automotive Body Repair • Automotive Science Technology • Aviation & Aerospace Technology
• Homeland Security & Criminal Justice • Culinary Arts • Design & Illustration
Digital Media Lab • Health Sciences Academy • Human Services • Innovation Technology & Design •
• Introduction to Healthcare • Work Based Learning**

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