

I am writing to add my comments on the Governor's proposed budget plan, specifically around Vermont State University. I am a proud alum (2010) and work at the university. While I am all for fiscal responsibility, a fully funded and thriving state university system is vital to the success of the state as a whole. Gov. Scott noted it would take hard work and I would contend that a thriving VTSU "is how we keep and attract the people we need to reverse our demographic trends, revitalize our communities, and restore economic equity and opportunity in every corner of our state." Having a university system that serves VT students keeps not just our students, but our money in state. Furthermore, a strong system that can recruit students into the state only grows the population and helps it get younger. I respectfully ask that the budget proposal up the contribution to VTSU to \$10 million and fully fund the system that serves Vermont's student.