

March 14, 2025

Chair Robin Scheu  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Vermont General Assembly

Dear Chair Scheu and House Appropriations Committee Members,

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Vermont State College System. Since joining the system in 2003 and assuming my current role in 2020, I have observed firsthand the exceptional dedication and commitment your committee has shown towards the VSC.

Quite literally, the VSC would not be where it is today were it not for you.

As the Chief Financial and Operating Officer of the system, I would like to clarify the Vermont State Colleges' request for base funding. Unlike previous requests, this request includes both an inflationary adjustment and an increase to address a legislative change made in 2024.

For FY26, we are requesting **\$53,968,692** in base appropriation.

This amount includes Governor Scott's recommended inflation adjustment and \$1,500,000 to update our base for the legislature's change in required structural deficit from \$25,000,000 to \$22,000,000, as stated in Act 113 of 2024, Sec. E.602.2(b)(1).

Governor Scott has recommended a budget of \$52,468,692 for FY26. While we appreciate his support for the Vermont State Colleges, it is essential to increase our base appropriation by this additional \$1,500,000. This increment is necessary to avoid reductions in personnel and services, which could adversely affect academic quality and rural educational accessibility.

If it would be beneficial to your committee, I am prepared to offer testimony concerning the System's funding request. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharron R. Scott  
Chief Financial & Operating Officer