

*VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL*

February 5, 2026

Dear Chair Conlon,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. I appreciated the opportunity to share information regarding the accomplishments of the Community College of Vermont and Vermont State University, and to respond to the committee's questions.

I am writing to provide follow-up information on two matters raised during that discussion.

First, with respect to the cost of two dual enrollment sections per student, the cost varies based on the instructional delivery model. When a course is taught by an incumbent high school faculty member, the cost is \$58 per credit, or approximately \$174 per course. Courses delivered through the Community College of Vermont are priced at \$261 per credit, or approximately \$783 per course. When delivered by Vermont State University, the cost is \$290 per credit, or approximately \$870 per course. The average cost per credit in Fall 2025 of these delivery systems was \$190 or \$570 for a three-credit course.

Second, I would like to address the Vermont State Colleges budget request. We are appreciative of the Governor's recommendation for a three percent increase to the system's base budget (general fund lines B.602 and B.603), which provides critical support for academic and administrative operations across the system.

In addition, the system has requested \$1.5 million in one-time general funding to support the expansion of micro-credential, certificate, and apprenticeship programs aligned with Vermont's most pressing workforce needs. Modeled on the successful plumbing and electrical apprenticeship programs currently offered by the Vermont State Colleges, this funding would enable the rapid development of programs in high-demand fields, including paraeducation, health professions, and automotive repair.

The largest proposed increase is to the Vermont State Colleges Global Commitment grant, from \$1.5 million to \$3.894 million, an increase of \$2.394 million. These Medicaid-supported funds currently underwrite faculty positions, clinical instruction, and student training in nursing and other allied health programs. Total allied health expenditures now exceed \$4.2 million, resulting in a significant and ongoing funding gap.

This funding gap presents particular challenges for nursing programs, where non-competitive faculty compensation has limited our ability to recruit and retain qualified educators. An increase in Global Commitment funding would allow the system to make targeted adjustments to nursing faculty salaries, thereby strengthening recruitment, retention, and program continuity, and enhancing the system's capacity to reliably deliver nursing education across the state.

I very much appreciate the budgetary constraints placed upon the state at this moment in time and recognize our request for a one-time funding to support micro-credentials and an increase in grant funding for nursing education are large asks. However, both programs are in direct support of educating Vermont's most critical asset – our workforce.

I would welcome the opportunity to provide any additional information that may be helpful to the committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me should further questions arise.

Sincerely,



Dr. Elizabeth Mauch, Chancellor