

4/10/2026

Good morning,

I want to thank you for inviting me in this week, and for your patience with my public speaking nerves. I made a point about scale yesterday that I intended to be about CCV and mistakenly said VTSU.

The reason we have been advocating for the modernization of the Higher Education Trust Fund statute for so long is tied to where the greatest number of Vermonters are enrolling. CCV and VTSU are our gateway institutions that open doors to a lifetime of opportunity.

When we look at high level numbers from 2024 as it relates to the incoming class of undergraduate degree-seeking students, Vermont State University's number of Vermonters served was approximately double those at UVM.

And the point I tried to make clearly yesterday but didn't quite pull it off: CCV serves the greatest number of Vermonters and low-income Vermonters of any college in Vermont, by a wide margin. CCV, as our state's access institution, serves the greatest number of low-income Vermonters. Over 14,000 Vermonters enrolled in a CCV course in 2025.

Simply put, by near any measure and by a significant majority, Vermonters are being served by CCV and VTSU. Career-connected postsecondary education—particularly at our public institutions—drives economic mobility.

The problem statement is clear: too few Vermonters are pursuing the postsecondary credentials needed to access promising jobs and sustain Vermont's economy. The HETF is just one piece of the puzzle but something that we can point to right now and say: with this change, Vermont can improve its public policy strategy and make a difference for Vermonters furthest from opportunity.

Thanks for all that you do for Vermonters and for our state.

Rebecca

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