This year has been a year of challenge and transition at Vermont Tech. Interim President Dan Smith was appointed in April 2014. At that point, President Smith framed three core internal objectives:

**Restoring financial equilibrium**

**Building a collegial environment**

**Instilling a commitment to innovation**

Externally, the college has been focused on increasing its profile among its core constituencies: Vermont students and employers. The college is committed to being the partner of first regard, whether the inquiry comes from state agencies, employers, our sister institutions in the VSC system, and those outside the college with whom we face common challenges and opportunities.

Challenges remain, but the College has many reasons to be optimistic. At its core, the nature of the hands-on, applied education offered at Vermont Tech is unique in the state of Vermont. Moreover, when considering the industries and opportunities that exist in the state, Vermont Tech is uniquely positioned to graduate students well prepared to play a role. Whether it is health care and support for an aging population, renewable energy and the state’s goal of 90% renewables by 2050, increased production of local food and dairy innovation, the technology sector, housing or clean water, Vermont Tech grads will play a role in Vermont’s future.
STUDENTS & STUDENT LIFE

Enrollment

As of August 31, 2014, our headcount enrollment is down seven students: 1474. Enrollment is up more than expected in Nursing and Allied Health programs, and down more than expected in non-Nursing and Allied Health programs. Strong performers for the 2014-2015 academic year Nursing: (ADN up 26%, PN up 11%, BSN continuing to grow), Dental (up 14%), Vet Tech (up 15%), Auto Tech (up 14%), and Prof. Pilot (up 33%). Our overall enrollment is one student greater than in 2013-2014.

This year, Vermont Tech is welcoming 742 new students (197 in Williston, 310 in Randolph Center and 235 in other locations), who come from 11 states and four countries.

Marketing

The Vermont Tech marketing strategy includes events, earned and paid media, and a strong social media presence. Significant effort this year has gone into the revitalized website and a strategy for earned media that reintroduces the college to the state and regional community.

2013-2014 events were very successful, including a record-breaking turnout at the fall 2013 Williston Open House. Overall, we hosted four Open Houses, two Instant Decision Days and five Saturday Information Sessions over the course of the year. Through these events, we introduced 325 prospective students and more than 700 total prospective students and family members to our faculty, staff and current students.

Saturday Information Sessions: 25 prospective students, 59 total guests
Fall Open Houses: 179 prospective students, 395 total guests
Accepted-Student Open Houses: 76 accepted students, 173 total guests
Instant Decision Days: 45 prospective students, 84 total guests

As part of our marketing efforts, VTC unveiled a brand-new website in June. A sampling of its new features includes:

- **Bright and bold photography** on the home page. Our home page images change frequently and reflect what’s new at VTC.
- **Vermont Tech in the News** – The news section is filled with links to articles about the college, our students, faculty and alums. Readers can share articles of interest on Facebook or via Twitter feed directly from the page.
- **Student Life & Photo Galleries** – This section of the site, like the home page, is updated frequently.
- **My Vermont Tech** – This space is designed especially for our current students and faculty.
- **Program Pages** – Each degree program now has its own page with info about our faculty, who’s hired our grads and what types of work students might do after graduating with a VTC degree. Over time, we’ll be adding profiles of current students and alums to these pages.
Early Google Analytics show that visitors to the website find the information they’re seeking more efficiently. We expect to see a steady increase of visitors to our “Tours and Events” and “Apply” pages due to ease of navigation and greatly improved calls to action.

In addition to the website, last year VTC rolled out all new print materials, including a travel brochure (a small, portable viewbook), athletics brochure and financial planning document. Our new branding, unveiled in 2013, is now thoroughly integrated across all college materials.

Vermont Tech enrolled in the Yellow Ribbon Program this year. Degree-granting institutions of higher learning participating in the Post-9/11 GI Bill Yellow Ribbon Program agree to make additional funds available to eligible veterans or their designated transferees to apply toward education programs, without an additional charge to the veteran’s GI Bill entitlement. These institutions voluntarily enter into a Yellow Ribbon Agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and choose the amount of tuition and fees that will be contributed. The VA matches that amount and issues payments directly to the institution.

Try a Major Day

On April 18, Vermont Tech hosted its first Try a Major Day (TAMD) for high school/career tech sophomores and juniors at its Williston and Randolph Center campuses. Students were invited to experience and participate in hands-on class activities guided by faculty, working alongside current VTC students in their respective programs. This was not the typical “tour the campus day.” It was a day when prospective students were able to interact with faculty and walk in the footsteps of current VTC students to experience firsthand all that Vermont Tech has to offer. TAMD was also the perfect opportunity for students to learn about career opportunities and to try out nontraditional-by-gender careers, such as women in engineering and men in allied health.

All departments took part in the initiative, which ran on both campuses from 9 A.M. until 2 P.M., and more than 225 students attended, along with their teachers and some of their parents. Follow-up surveys indicated positive results: For many students, it brought awareness about the many Vermont Tech offerings. For some, it generated a clear interest in pursuing Vermont Tech upon secondary school graduation.

Try a Major Day plans are well underway for this fall in Williston (November 14) and next spring in Randolph Center (May 1). Having events at two different times and locations will provide greater exposure and the opportunity to attract even larger numbers. TAMD is an exciting opportunity to introduce potential students to our expert faculty and staff, our relevant experiential programs and talented current students, while providing a good overview and a genuine feel for life at Vermont Tech. (Note: Perkins funds will assist with many of the program expenses.)

Athletics

The Vermont Tech Athletic Department honored 11 athletes with 19 athletic and academic achievement awards at the annual Vermont Tech convocation on April 17. Seven were honored with United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) All-Academic or All-American awards. Student-athletes earn All-Academic honors by achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher over the course of their academic career.

Jamal Hughes, a sophomore guard on the basketball team, was honored by the USCAA for making the All-American team. He averaged 25.6 points per game and was among the top five in five statistical categories for USCAA Division II.

Ama Baker, a senior point guard, averaged 17.4 points and 6.8 assists per game. Baker also reached a milestone this season by hitting 1,000 points in 2.5 seasons with the Green Knights.
Three Vermont Tech students placed third in the 2014 ASHRAE Student Design Project Competition. The team includes recent graduates Constantin Condrat and Tyler Gendron, as well as current senior Stephen Wichmann, who are all part of the bachelor degree program in Architectural Engineering Technology at Vermont Tech. The students submitted their senior project in the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) HVAC Design Calculations category competition in May. This is the second year in a row that students from Vermont Tech have placed in the top three in the international competition (in 2013, students placed second in the same competition).

Courtney Hart, a VTC BS.AET senior and president of the Vermont Tech ASHRAE student chapter, received the Lynn G. Bellenger Technology Scholarship for women engineering technology students. This $5,000 scholarship from ASHRAE was awarded in memory of Lynn G. Bellenger, who was the 2010-2011 president of ASHRAE. Hart was the first recipient of the award.

Residence Life | Randolph Center Campus

VTC continues to work on improving the quality of the student experience at both our residential campuses and nursing sites, as well as for our online students.

On the Randolph campus, a Campus Life committee was formed by the Student Council to work collaboratively with college administrators on policies and issues related to residence life and food services. The Events Board, a student-run committee, hosted a number of successful events, including an excursion to the Boston Bruins vs. Montreal Canadiens game, a semiformal dinner cruise on Lake Champlain and a Spring Bash. With the support of the Vermont Department of Health, the college participated in the American College Health Association’s National College Health Assessment, and results will be used to focus college programming and activities in areas of health and wellness. As a result of that work, the college formed a Tobacco Task Force to work toward addressing the effects of secondhand smoke and tobacco products.

Residence Life | Williston Campus

The new academic year has brought us a record-breaking number of residential students. We have filled our residence hall beyond capacity by doubling and tripling some dorm rooms. Even after making those adjustments, we still had a large number of housing requests. We worked with a community partner, Riverside in the Village, to lease apartments for housing an additional eight students.

Our new-student orientation kickoff started our academic year on August 21. We invited students from the St. Albans, Newport and Middlebury campuses to the Williston campus orientation. Nearly 250 students were invited, and approximately 200 attended with their families. Our caterer reported serving more than 300 meals!

Last spring, we hired a new staff member, Stan Costa, as our coordinator of student activities. He did a fantastic job coordinating fun activities for orientation weekend. A variety of fun and educational activities are on the schedule for the fall semester, including apple picking for the food shelf, a whiffle ball home-run derby, a drive-in movie night and a fall festival.
Promotions and Tenure

J. Chris Reilly, chair of the Architectural and Building Engineering Technology Department, was promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure.

Steve Belitsos of the Diesel Technology and Power Department was promoted to the rank of professor.

George Longenecker of the English, Humanities and Social Science Department was promoted to the rank of professor.

Joan Richmond Hall, program coordinator of the Sustainable Design and Technology Department and a member of the Science Department, was promoted to the rank of professor.

New Full-time Faculty

Jason Pelletier, BSN, formerly a clinical instructor for the ADN nursing program in Williston, was hired and appointed to the rank of assistant professor.

Elizabeth Steele, MSN, formerly a clinical instructor for the PN and ADN nursing programs in Brattleboro, was hired and appointed to the rank of assistant professor.

Connie Powell, MSN, formerly a registered nurse at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and an adjunct clinical faculty member at Colby-Sawyer College, was hired and appointed to the rank of assistant professor.

New Administrative Staff in Academic Affairs

Cynthia Martindill was appointed as the interim associate dean of Nursing Education Programs, responsible for administering Vermont Tech’s PN, ADN and BSN curricula around Vermont. Cindy was previously site director of the NEK nursing programs in Lyndonville and Newport. Professor Sarah Billings, nursing program faculty, is filling in as site director for the Northeast Kingdom region.

Jane Kearnis was appointed by a joint Vermont Tech/Community College of Vermont (CCV) search committee as the new director of the Hartness Library. Before taking over as director in December, she was the librarian on the Williston campus, serving the nursing sites and the online nursing and dental programs. Prior to joining Vermont Tech in 2009, she was a reference librarian at Caldwell College in New Jersey. A native of Montreal, she worked 12 years for CAE Electronics as a technical writer and an engineering assistant. Since 2011, she has served as the public board member on the Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board, representing the consumer interest on the board. Jane earned her Bachelor of Arts from Western University in London, Ontario, and her Master of Library Science from Rutgers University.

Kathleen Mason was hired as our part-time international student mentor. Kathleen provides a variety of support services for a growing number of international students from several countries, including Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and the Cayman Islands.

Leandre Waldo-Johnson joined Vermont Tech in September 2013 as the associate director of marketing, communications and development. Leandre previously served as the director of communications at RunVermont. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree, graduating cum laude, from Hamilton College and received her Master of Business Administration from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, where she specialized in nonprofit management. Leandre joined Vermont Tech’s senior leadership team in August.

Laurel Butler is not new to VTC (business advisor, VSBD, for many years; and temporary coordinator of STEM Outreach last spring). This year, Laurel will continue to work with Rosemary Distel, associate academic dean, to raise STEM Career Pathways awareness among Vermont students. Laurel did a wonderful job with coordinating the first Try a Major Day last spring, and she will continue to expand on other STEM activities to help reach out to young people. This position for STEM Outreach comes as a result of the Perkins Career and Technical Education grant.

Lit Tyler was appointed Vermont Tech’s new dean of administration. He has worked at Vermont Tech since 2008 and most recently served as a research analyst and director of institutional research, a position he’s held for the past two years. Lit joined Vermont Tech as an academic scheduler and also serves as treasurer of the Vermont State Colleges United Professionals. As dean of administration, Lit will plan, implement, manage and supervise the college’s financial and business affairs.

Four new staff members joined the Institute for Applied Agriculture and Food Systems last fall. Peter Howe serves as the farm operations manager, John Roe is a project manager, Cara Butterly Gauthier serves as outreach coordinator, and Melissa Neilson is the student resource coordinator. The Institute for Applied Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Tech is a new program that focuses on food processing and dairy farm management, with an emphasis on soil conservation and innovative energy production. It is made possible through a $3.4 million Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant from the Department of Labor.

Retirements

Terrence Murphy, professor in the Architectural and Building Engineering Technology Department, retired after 28 years of service. Terry will return in the second semester as a part-time faculty instructor.

Gordon Reynolds, associate professor in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Technology Department, retired after 14 years of service.

Anna Gerac, director of the Nursing Education Programs, retired after 13 years of dedicated service.
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Harold G. Wirtz Award

The Harold G. Wirtz Master Teacher Award is the highest honor that a faculty member can receive at the college. The award is presented to a faculty member who serves as a role model for other faculty, having demonstrated deep mastery of his or her subject matter, engaged students at all levels of preparation, fostered intellectual curiosity and growth, and maintained strong collegial relationships with the Vermont Tech community. This year’s recipient, Professor Carolyn Stannard-Carlo, is the first member of the Nursing Department to receive this prestigious award. As is tradition, Carolyn presented the keynote address at the 2014-2015 opening convocation ceremony on August 25. Professor Stannard-Carlo’s photograph will join those of six other faculty members on the Harold G. Wirtz wall in the Administrative Center.

Summer Bridge

Twenty-seventy students successfully completed an intensive four-week program that helps prepare new Vermont Tech students for a successful transition into college. The Summer Bridge program included many hours of tutoring, as well as fun activities, to help the students learn teamwork and how to become better college students. The Summer Bridge program was primarily funded through the Perkins grant.

Faculty Strategic Planning Retreat

Well over half of Vermont Tech’s full-time faculty met twice this summer for a faculty strategic planning retreat, which originated with a motion made by Professor Allan Rodgers during April’s faculty assembly. The purpose of this event was to help address critical issues facing the college. After a full day of discussion in June, 17 strategic initiatives were proposed, each with an acting leader. On August 20, faculty met for a second planning session to review and prioritize the 17 strategic initiatives. At the end of the day, four initiatives were voted as top priorities:

- Coordinating and consolidating course offerings for efficiency
- Addressing mathematics as it relates to student retention, especially in engineering technologies
- Determining how faculty can best assist in recruiting students and marketing the college
- Ensuring first-year success for students through monitoring and encouragement

Two New Uses of Technology

This fall, two new software tools will be utilized for semester course scheduling and online student evaluation of faculty. EMS by Dean Evans & Associates, LLC, is a VSC software package generally used across the system for room scheduling and meeting and event management. Erica Dana, Vermont Tech’s scheduler, and Sarah Levin, registrar, will be piloting use of this software for academic scheduling, building the class and lab schedule for the 2015 spring semester. This is the first time in the VSC that EMS will be employed for academic scheduling.

After an extensive, systemwide evaluation process, Blue by eXplorance was selected as JSC’s, LSC’s, CCV’s and VTC’s online student evaluation platform. This fall, Blue will be piloted and tested in classes taught by tenured, full-time faculty who hold the rank of full professor. Subsequently, the software will be rolled out for student evaluation of all faculty.
**Dual Enrollment and STEM Marketing Recruiting**

*Patti Coultas*, director of the Career and Technical Teacher Education Program and dual enrollment coordinator, along with *Rosemary Distel*, associate academic dean, continue to expand dual enrollment options and processes with Vermont career and technical centers, as well as Vermont high schools. Emphasis has been placed on improving the oversight process to ensure strong academic quality of instruction and curriculum. This is especially important because the NEASC has added dual enrollment as part of the standard review for accreditation. The Vermont Legislature has been strongly encouraging higher education institutions to improve high school students’ access to dual enrollment and early college programs.

**Business Department**

The Business Department conducted two surveys. One survey was distributed across majors to gather information on the potential interest in a business minor. Another survey was given to business students to assess areas for change and improvement. In response to these surveys, the department is currently developing a minor or specialization in entrepreneurship and hopes to offer this as an option beginning in fall 2015. The department continues to work on the development of its online bachelor’s in Applied Business Management and has experienced an increase in enrollment of students in this program.

**Diesel Technology**

In June, VTC hosted a film crew at our diesel power technology building at the Catamount Center. The crew was busy filming 50-plus how-to videos to complement a diesel textbook. Our lab and students participated in the weeklong shoot and are featured in 45 of the videos. The videos include such topics as air conditioning service; electrical and electronic diagnosis; brakes, steering and suspension; shop and vehicle orientation; and drivetrain repair.

**Dental Hygiene**

The VTC Dental Hygiene Clinic had new computers installed at all the new dental units this summer. We hope this will be the next step to us becoming entirely paperless. In addition, we received a **$5,000 grant** from the Northeast Delta Dental Foundation. This grant was used to repair our pediatric dental X-ray mannequin and to purchase six new dental hygiene handpieces. Our dental hygiene program is also pleased to announce a **100% pass rate** for all licensing examinations this year. VTC’s Dental Hygiene program has enjoyed a national exam pass rate of 100% for more than 15 years.

**CCV-Vermont Tech Pathway: STEM Studies to Renewable Energy**

Efforts of faculty and academic staff at Community College of Vermont and Vermont Tech have resulted in a new **CCV STEM Studies A.S. transfer pathway** to VTC’s Renewable Energy B.S. degree. CCV students who complete the STEM Studies A.S. degree, including a required list of technical courses, may transfer to Vermont Tech’s Renewable Energy B.S. program and complete that degree with 65 credits of additional study. Additional pathways between STEM Studies and Vermont Tech’s bachelor’s degree programs are under consideration.
Nursing

It has been an exceptionally busy year for our nursing programs. Longtime leader Anna Gerac announced her retirement in the fall, and at the same time, the nursing faculty and staff began a yearlong strategic planning effort. The first outcome of the strategic planning was reclassifying the director of nursing position to associate dean of nursing. The next major outcome was initiating “Direct Progression” for qualified students through the three levels of the program. Instead of having to reapply to a competitive field for the ADN and BSN levels, qualified students can now move automatically through the program from PN to ADN to BSN. The third outcome of our planning was regionalizing our sites throughout the state. The program now comprises five regions: Northeast (Newport, Lyndonville, Wilder); Southeast (Brattleboro, Springfield); Southwest (Bennington, Middlebury); Northwest (Williston, St. Albans); and Central (Randolph Center, under the direct guidance of the associate dean). Finally, we added an Associate Degree component to our Springfield site, where nine new ADN students started on August 25. We also reopened the Middlebury site for incoming LPNs.

Along with the changes that resulted from strategic planning, our online ADN-to-BSN program kicked off in 2013-2014, and our candidacy for BSN accreditation was approved by the ACEN.

Looking forward to 2014-2015, the primary effort will be the completion of our self-study in preparation for the accreditation visit in early 2015 by the ACEN. This accreditation will for the first time encompass all three levels of our program: PN, ADN and BSN.

VTC nursing programs continue to be sought by potential nursing students. This year, we had 464 applicants for our PN nursing program and enrolled 165 students. The ADN program had 247 applicants; we enrolled 157 students. Our BSN program is in its second year, and we’ve enrolled 12 new students this fall. One measure of the success of the nursing program is the pass rate of our graduates on the licensing examinations (NCLEX). Again this year, we are above the national averages, with a 97% pass rate for the PN graduates and a 94% pass rate for the RN graduates.
Fire Science

Alex Northern, director of the Fire Science program, was accepted to the Executive Fire Officer program at the National Fire Academy-Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD. He attended his first of four yearly visits to the center as part of the program. The chance to participate in this coveted program will allow for the publication of scholarly research, as well as networking and professional growth opportunities.

Closer to home, the program itself is strong and expanding. Over the past year, our fire engine has been equipped and upgraded with new tools, appliances and a David Clark intercom system. The objective is to model, as closely as possible, a working engine and the tools required to provide excellent public service. To that end, VTC Engine 1 (pictured) will now respond to calls for mutual aid from surrounding communities, including the towns of Randolph Center, Randolph and East Randolph. This initiative has taken several years and is a testament to the role VTC students play in the vital life of the communities our campus is part of. This initiative will also add an invaluable experiential dimension to the program. There is potential for expansion of the response list.

The fire science lab received a much-needed makeover this summer. Old and unused equipment was discarded, and the space was rearranged to more closely resemble a working fire station. This will enhance student learning and support. In addition, an exhaust system was installed that will vent toxic gases emitted from the engine.

Finally, this semester, the director will be applying for state recognition of programmatic first responder duties on campus, through a state EMS service license. This will provide weight and accountability to the informal first responder service provision that has been in place.

CubeSat

Vermont Tech’s CubeSat laboratory (cubesatlab.org) has done very well this year. VTC’s CubeSat was the first college/university-built satellite in New England and the first successful one in the Northeast, including the states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The CubeSat launched on November 19, 2013, and we have been operating and requesting and downloading photos and other data every two weeks. The CubeSat laboratory director, Dr. Carl Brandon, gave talks about the project at Cal Poly in April, Cal Tech in May, and the Ada-Europe 2014 conference in Paris in June. He was nominated by AdaCore (our Ada/SPARK tools vendor) and selected as one of three “Top Innovators” nationwide by Embedded Computing Design for his work with our CubeSat. We also were featured in the Smithsonian’s “Air & Space” September issue. We are awaiting notification of our next grant (in the past 10 years, we have applied for 21 NASA grants and received 16), which will start us on our next CubeSat – a triple (10 cm x 10 cm x 30 cm), with an ion drive, capable of going to the moon or Mars.

CubeSats to the Moon (Mars and Saturn, too) | Smithsonian Air & Space Magazine
Carl Brandon named top innovator | Embedded Computing Design
The Vermont Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) held its 25th graduation ceremony on May 20 in Judd Hall at the Randolph Center campus. The special guest speaker at the commencement was Governor Peter Shumlin.

The class of 2014 included 48 graduates with an incredible overall average GPA of 3.47. Twenty-seven of the graduates had GPAs greater than 3.5; 15 had GPAs of 3.75 or higher; and three had perfect 4.0 GPAs. These three students – Jordan Mayer, Max Robbins and Anthony Spinella – were announced as the class co-valedictorians.

Of special note was VAST’s first, and only the second Vermonter, to receive the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship, a full scholarship to any college for four years. The Gates Millennium Scholarship recipient, Indra Acharya, was born and raised in a Bhutanese refugee camp in Nepal. Two years ago, Indra, his mother and two of his siblings moved to the United States and landed in Winooski, Vermont. Indra was accepted into the VAST program with an undeclared major. During his VAST year, Indra worked two jobs, one in the dining hall and one as a peer mentor for other international students. He graduated with a 3.97 GPA. Indra has chosen to attend Georgetown University to pursue a degree in law and politics.

While graduating 47, the class started with an initial group of 62 students being admitted meaning that 15 started but did not complete the program. Of the 47 students, 21 planned to return to VTC, 24 planned to transfer, 1 will enter the work force due to financial constrictions and 1 has joined the military. Historically, half have stayed at VTC and half have transferred. The biggest difference in this class is the number of students that transferred to other colleges despite VTC having the major they want to pursue (e.g. business, nursing, computer technology). This may be a result of the high level of the class overall or as a result of the turmoil and press during their VAST year.

For the 2014-2015 academic year, we admitted just those students we expected to be successful for a total of 53. The division between Randolph and Williston students this year is much more equitable with 16 students at Williston and 34 at Randolph. Of the 53 admitted, 50 students actually began the program in August, 49 from Vermont and one from New Hampshire. Of the three admitted students that did not begin, 1 chose to attend CCV’s early college program to avoid taking math, one could not afford the room and board and lived too far away to commute, and one chose to stay at her sending high school.
Continuing Education and Workforce Development

The Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CEWD) designs and delivers workforce education and training, including customized workshops, courses that lead to certifications, degree programs and more. CEWD also partners with respected national vendors to provide online, noncredit trainings with an open enrollment format.

In the past year, CEWD partnered with the following VTC programs: aviation, nursing, dental hygiene, fire science, sustainable design, auto tech, business, and agriculture, to provide new courses and support the work of the academic programs. We regularly work with faculty from a variety of areas to deliver courses at our corporate and government clients’ sites. Clients include GMCR, GE, UTC/Goodrich, GW Plastics, G.S. Precision, Northeastern Precision Products, the Department of Homeland Security, IBM, Concepts NREC, Fletcher Allen Health Care, Vermont Agency of Transportation, Chroma, Omega, Brattleboro Fire Department, and many more.

In December, CEWD completed the Department of Labor green jobs training grant with 228 participants – exceeding the goal of 180 participants.

Ag Institute

The Institute for Applied Agriculture and Food Systems offered 15 courses through August 2014 and had a total of 82 individual participants. Course topics ranged from welding to cheese making to digester operations. The institute collaborated with a number of agricultural and food entrepreneurs, organizations and industry associations around the state to develop the curriculum for the short course offerings. They included the Vermont Grape and Wine Council, Hannaford Career Center, and Drop-In Brewing of Middlebury, Vermont.

Plans are moving forward with creating a milk plant on-site that will process approximately 600 gallons per day from the dairy operation once it is running at full capacity. A 30’ x 48’ commercial greenhouse was purchased and erected in the spring to help extend production of produce from the market garden, and a tractor was acquired by the farm to help aid market garden production.

Going forward, the institute plans to expand course offerings to other Vermont Tech campuses around the state. Starting in fall 2015, the institute aims to launch the Working Lands Master Certificate Program. This 37-week experience will expose students to a variety of food and agricultural topics in a short-course format with academic credits included that can be rolled into the Agribusiness Management associate’s degree program.
Commencements

On Saturday, May 17, Vermont Tech celebrated the college’s 148th annual commencement ceremony at Norwich University, where 152 graduates were awarded bachelor’s degrees and 310 were awarded associate’s degrees. The largest group of graduates was nursing students, with 122 grads, followed by Bachelor of Science in Business Technology and Management students with 34 graduates. Roger Allbee, former Vermont Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, delivered this year’s commencement speech and was also awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. Graduating senior Magdalene Miller was the student speaker.

US News & World Report

In the annual best college rankings by U.S. News & World Report, Vermont Tech is pleased to announce that the college has been ranked number 36 among the Best Regional Colleges for 2015. As a public college, Vermont Tech ranks number 10, making it one of the top 15 public colleges in the north for the third year in a row. Vermont Tech is one of just two Vermont schools to rank in the best northern regional colleges category and is the only public college in Vermont to be included in the regional colleges in the north ranking.

On Saturday, June 21, Vermont Tech celebrated the graduation of 132 students in the Practical Nursing program. Taking place in Judd Hall at the Randolph Center campus, the commencement ceremony marked the graduation for the college’s nine sites throughout the state where the nursing programs are offered. A number of academic achievements were recognized at the ceremony, as 86% of the class graduated with honors or high honors, and 93 students are going on to the Associate Degree in Nursing program.
Scholarships and Donations

David Blittersdorf, well-known renewable energy entrepreneur and president and chief executive officer of Williston-based AllEarth Renewables, committed $120,000 to support the launch of the college’s new Renewable Energy bachelor’s degree program. The program will prepare graduates to play a hands-on role in implementing the state of Vermont’s goal of achieving 90% renewable energy by 2050. The program launched this fall.

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS INCLUDE:

- Sodexo .............................................................. $48,705
- Pepsi ................................................................. $26,240
- Higher Education Trust Fund Match .............. $25,019
- George Daly ..................................................... $25,000
- Auto Club Enterprise .................................. $15,000
  (to Endowment)
- Ned Herrin ....................................................... $21,000
  (to Endowment)
- Mary Sumner Estate ...................................... $63,467.11
  (to Endowment)
- IBM Equipment Gift-in-Kind ......................... $18,511

FACILITIES

A number of improvements were made to facilities on campus in the past year. State funds supported exterior painting/repair of four buildings, two buildings received new tile and carpet, the roof of the heifer barn on our farm was replaced, and several energy management system upgrades are in process. The VSC Dorm and Dining funds supported new carpet installation in Nutting Hall, interior painting in Morey and Keenan halls, and a fire alarm upgrade for the residence at 44 Water Street. Finally, quasi-endowment funds were used to improve residence hall lounges (window installation, flooring, painting) and install new water fountains in Keenan Hall.

Conferences & Events

Vermont Tech in Randolph Center continues to be busy year-round with meetings, special events and conferences. Partnering with Sodexo catering services and our supportive facilities crew, Conferences and Events strives to provide both our own colleagues and external guests with a first-class experience in the heart of Vermont.

This office is most proud of the connections made with youth groups and programs, particularly during the summer months, with the hope of seeing some of these young participants as students on campus one day! We began the 2014 season with the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership Conference and ended with a two-week “boot camp” for new career and technical center teachers starting their careers as secondary educators – how fitting! We also proudly hosted politicians, the American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State, musicians, Lyra Summer Music Workshop, athletes, Vermont Voltage Soccer Camp, and the Vermont State Firefighters Association Fire Cadet Academy.

Looking ahead, Conferences and Events will help with Alumni Day, Open House, commencement 2015, and many other college events. We will welcome daylong conferences such as Senator Leahy’s Women’s Economic Opportunity Conference, Women Can Do!, and the AHEC Health Careers Focus Conference. All of this, and many more events, add to the vibrancy and excitement of life at Vermont Tech.
Brooks House

The Brattleboro campus is located in the center of downtown Brattleboro in the historic, former Brooks House Hotel building. The campus was completed in August in conjunction with CCV. It is shared with CCV and features state-of-the-art teaching and learning spaces, including science, nursing and high-fidelity simulation laboratories. The 18,000-square-foot campus has two computer labs, a student learning center and a spacious student lounge. The student-friendly campus also features multiple retail and food services, both within the complex and adjacent to the campus. The campus is on the bus line, is near the town transportation center with connections to long-distance bus service and the local Amtrak station, and has ample nearby municipal parking available.

VERMONT INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Utilization

The mission of Vermont Interactive Technologies (VIT) is to support the economic health and development of the state and its citizens by providing the technical infrastructure and operational expertise necessary to deliver education, training and information equally to all areas of Vermont. This past year was another productive and rewarding one filled with both challenges and successes. As technology rapidly advances and Vermonters’ needs are ever-changing, VIT’s charge has been to quickly and economically develop solutions to meet those needs. VIT’s team consistently demonstrates the ability to tailor-build technological solutions and to provide expert support to educators and organizations statewide.

VIT logged more than 31,000 hours, supported close to 22,000 participants, and attracted 26 new clients.

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<th>PROGRAMS</th>
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<td>• Vermont Tech</td>
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<td>• Dual enrollment classes</td>
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<th>TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS OFFERED</th>
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<td>• Custom design and installation of in-house systems</td>
<td>• Center for Research &amp; Public Policy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Johnson State College</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• The White House</td>
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<td>• and more</td>
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Custom Design Installations and Support

VIT designed, installed and supported in-house systems for Vermont organizations and businesses. The photo below shows a videoconferencing installation at the new Center for Research & Public Policy (CRPP) at the base of Okemo Mountain in Ludlow, Vermont. You have to look closely to find the camera, microphones and other videoconferencing technology. The VIT team did an exceptional job of hiding it in order to support the aesthetics of this beautiful space.

Technological Advancements

In 2013, VIT introduced a new service that allows personal device connections via computers, tablets and smartphones. The result can be a virtual classroom/meeting room with a combination of connections, such as two VIT classrooms, one worldwide classroom, two desktops, two tablets and one smartphone. This past year, VIT expanded the ever-growing web of connectivity even further by building a web conference integration gateway. This new gateway allows the seamless integration of web conferencing services such as GoToMeeting, Google Hangouts and Skype with VIT, enabling users on all services to cross platforms without difficulty. Now Vermonters truly can connect to each other and to the world, where, when and how they want.

Future Focus

In recent years, VIT has diversified its offerings and potential revenue streams. This year will be focused on marketing those new services to existing and prospective clients and meeting a very aggressive revenue goal.

In addition, in response to requests from clients, VIT is exploring the feasibility of offering a lecture capture/video module production and editing service for its clients who use VIT for distance learning. This could provide an end-to-end solution for clients who wish to provide synchronous, fully interactive experiences and accompanying asynchronous video modules.

The VIT team continues to take great pride in the learning communities it builds in partnership with its clients and is looking forward to another rewarding year.

LIBRARY/INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Hartness Library

Hartness Library has continued to work on implementing the objectives outlined in the Hartness Library Strategic Plan 2012-2017. Hartness Library at a Glance 2013 details our major initiatives this past year, including facts such as how many questions we answered using online chat, how many full-text articles were accessed, the number of people who visited the library in person, and more. The Hartness team uses these statistics each year to assess how our services and resources are meeting the needs of our college communities and to make changes where needed.
Hartness Library\'s students and faculty accessed more than 240,000 full-text articles and eBook chapters from our collection in 2013; that\'s a 20% increase over 2012. We hope to continue this access trend by making our resources easy to access from any device using our new mobile-optimized website. Our ask-a-librarian service is well-suited to reaching out to a librarian on a handheld device. The service offers users access to a Hartness librarian using email, an 800 number, online chat and, most recently, via text message.

After a semester of beta testing, Hartness is rolling out the new VSC library catalog for our users for the start of the fall 2014 semester. The new interface and improved usability will help our large population of remote users at VTC and CCV engage more easily with our print, eBook and streamed video collections by offering many new features, including previewing print books in Google and faceted sorting of results.

Hartness is converting to an open-source link resolver product called CUFTS for the start of the fall 2014 semester, joining the other VSC colleges in using this tool for electronic journal and article discovery across multiple vendor platforms.

Hartness Library supported the new nursing and business online programs this year with an online library orientation and has embedded librarians in the nursing and dental hygiene online bachelor\'s degree classes. The online library orientation (available under Guides & Help on the Library home page) was included as a module in the VTC New Student Orientation Moodle class and includes interactive \"try its\" and Hartness-produced video tutorials.

### Information Technology

#### Academic IT Advisory Group

A group of academic technology users has been formed to help guide the department going forward. Topics of discussion this fall will include the future needs of computer labs, and design of an interactive classroom for combining distance learning with in-class instruction.

#### Shared Services

We have worked with the Chancellor\'s Office and other VSC colleges to move to centralized models for managing all aspects of our email and calendars. We have also combined with CCV to support both the network and our end users as one IT staff at our new shared site in Brattleboro. Both of these actions have saved CCV and VTC a considerable amount of money.

#### Classroom Technology

The two-year project to upgrade all classrooms to brighter, high-definition, wide-screen projectors has been completed. These upgrades were targeted toward people with visual impairments but have greatly improved the classroom experience for everyone.

#### Lab Upgrades

All the computer labs in the 100, 200 and 300 buildings in Williston have been upgraded with new machines. The CIS lab in Conant and a CAD lab in Clarke were also upgraded.

#### Network Upgrades

As promised, all sites are now running on new and improved network connections. Randolph Center saw the biggest increase, with its total available bandwidth being 10 times what it was last year. All other sites got upgrades based on usage as well, and our future ability to upgrade a single site independent from the overall contract has been greatly improved. Network contracts for the VSC were also renewed and greatly improved this year, and we\'re actively improving our local networks to better take advantage of our increases in bandwidth. As part of this process, we\'re also shifting our focus from wired to wireless infrastructure where possible to better serve the needs of our users.
PUBLIC SERVICE/ SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Last fall, seniors in our Sustainable Design Technology (SDT) program worked with the city of Montpelier designing for the city’s “Net Zero by 2030” initiative. Students worked with city officials and produced designs for the 1 Taylor Street project. Their designs helped to inform the committee and architects who are currently preparing the final design. The students’ projects are currently on display in the Montpelier City Hall. Students in the SDT senior studio course will continue to work with the city in the coming year on their sustainability initiative as the city formalizes a strategic plan to move forward.

The 2014 Outstanding Community Service Leader Award was awarded to the Bennington Practical Nursing class. At the Bennington campus, the Practical Nursing students – all 23 of them – made a commitment to provide 100,000 minutes of community service to a variety of local agencies and national organizations. They began this initiative in August 2013 and thus far have completed more than 35,000 minutes of service. The class has maintained a binder to record the number of minutes and types of services provided by students. Faculty member Inge Luce, the PN class advisor, has guided the class in its community service activities. Some examples of these activities include:

- Volunteered their time and talents to a cancer awareness event
- Provided health teaching for the community (hand hygiene, importance of immunizations)
- Donated $209 to Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council (BROC), an organization that assists low-income Vermonters with meeting basic needs
- Baked desserts for Bennington’s Fallapalooza community event in downtown Bennington
- Participated in College Night and provided health teaching for community members (healthy food choices, hand hygiene, flu immunization information)
- Participated in Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE) events

On May 27, installation of Vermont’s first parklet commenced in Montpelier. In partnership with Montpelier Alive, 15 Vermont Tech architecture students designed the parklet, acquired permits and built the small deck. This parklet will remain in Montpelier for two summers, and the city has dedicated six parking spaces for future parklets to be built. The structure is intended for pedestrians to have a place to sit and socialize in the warm months of the year.
Vermont Tech received its first check for electricity sold to Green Mountain Power from our new anaerobic digester, Big Bertha.

Construction is nearly complete, with only fine-tuning and final site work – paving and planting – remaining. The college is working with a valued partner, Grow Compost of Moretown, to study using food waste as a feedstock for anaerobic digesters. That work is supported by a grant from the Clean Energy Development Fund. Our first apprentices, Travis Brigante and Zyla Nuite, received their certificates and our heartfelt thanks for helping us through Bertha’s summer shakedown cruise. Travis is now focused on his senior-year classes, and Zyla will be staying on as a research assistant and data coordinator. Our second pair of apprentices, Dar Gibson and Jamie Carmichael, arrived on our first day of fall classes. We’re happy to have them and are grateful for the continued support of the college farm and facilities crews!

On August 24, a great showing of VTC alumni spent a full day at the college farm in celebration of Alumni Farm Day. The group worked together in the heifer barn, cleaned out the milking parlor and helped staff prepare for the new year.

In July, 22 teens from around the state took part in an intensive six-day residential Entrepreneurial Institute with the Governor’s Institutes of Vermont, hosted by Vermont Tech in Randolph Center. This fast-paced and fun collaborative program started with idea generation and evaluation, then moved through the business development stages and culminated in a “rocket pitch” competition where six teams of students pitched their business ideas to a team of expert business and faculty professionals in just 10 minutes. The goal of the institute was to empower and educate youth entering grades 10-12 about the power of entrepreneurship to transform their lives and communities and the world.

Vermont Tech had a great turnout at Gifford Medical Center’s Last Mile Ride on August 16. The annual event raises money for Gifford patients in and out of the hospital who are in advanced stages of illness or at the end of life. The ride raised more than $60,000 for area residents.
SPECIAL COMMENTS PLANS

Ag Lab

Through a comprehensive site selection process, the State of Vermont chose the Vermont Technical College campus in Randolph as the recommended location of a new collaborative laboratory facility serving the Agency of Agriculture and the Agency of Natural Resources. Having selected our campus as the location, the state Department of Buildings and General Services will move into a conceptual design phase in anticipation of funding as a part of the FY 16/FY17 state capital budget.

The site selected is a five acre parcel below the soccer field and north of BigBertha, the biodigester. The building is planned for roughly 30,000 sf in two stories. Media coverage about the lab is here.

One of the most compelling aspects about our site was the opportunity to build highly beneficial partnerships with the college over time. From their own report, the state sees the lab as “a community of environmental scientists, with a core of analytical chemists and biologists, with a periphery of applied scientists.” A group of skilled scientists that kind would deeply augment the work we do with students and open the opportunity for a broad array of collaborative efforts. The lab will be responsible for testing and analysis in support ANR and Agency of Agriculture programs in air and water quality, waste management, testing for animal, food, forest and plant pathogens, weights and measures, and a host of other agency programs. We are optimistic that a well-framed partnership with programs that relate directly to the work of the lab can be useful to the state and beneficial for the college and the students we serve.

A project like this is should reinforce the value of the work done at Vermont Tech and a strengthen a vision of our campus in Randolph as the intersection of environmental science, agriculture, food and energy in the state.

Accreditation Visits

ABET, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, will send an 11-person site evaluation team to the Randolph Center and Williston campuses October 19-21. Self-studies for each of Vermont Tech’s associate’s and bachelor’s degree engineering technology programs were submitted to ABET’s Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission (ETAC) in June. ETAC’s site evaluation team chair is Dr. Carol Schulte from McNeese State University, Lake Charles, Louisiana. Co-team chair is Dr, Wilson Gautreaux from Rayonier Performance Fibers in Jesup, Georgia.

A self-study report for Vermont Tech’s PN, ADN and BSN nursing programs is currently being developed to prepare for a midwinter accreditation visit by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

Vermont Tech’s New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) fifth-year interim report is due next summer. Dean Brent Sargent is leading the team that will coordinate writing the report during the 2014-2015 academic year. NEASC will also conduct a site evaluation visit to Vermont Tech’s external degree program site at General Electric in Rutland, Vermont.

Women Can Do!

Women Can Do! is a full-day conference for high school girls from across the state that features dozens of hands-on workshops and action stations highlighting careers in the skilled trades, technology and STEM fields. Women Can Do! now serves nearly 500 students and teachers from more than 60 schools each year. The conference is open to high school girls, grades 9-12. The workshops are taught mostly by women who are practicing professionals in their fields. The sessions are hands-on, designed to give girls the opportunity to try out the real equipment, tools and techniques used on the job.

The conference has taken place at Vermont Tech for many years but with little involvement from VTC faculty. This year, more than a dozen faculty and alums will offer workshops exploring mechanical and electrical engineering, auto tech, aviation, civil engineering and more. Engaging our faculty and the Admissions and Marketing teams is an excellent way to showcase our college and our programs to girls eager to learn more about STEM fields.