VERMONT TECH

PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL REPORT

A report for the Vermont State College Board of Trustees | September 2015
This year has been about building and maintaining momentum for Vermont Tech. With President Dan Smith taking the reins as president just over a year ago, he has continued to pursue his objectives of:

**Restoring financial equilibrium**

**Building a collegial environment**

**Instilling a commitment to innovation**

While there have been challenging times and obstacles that are still being broken down, with collaboration and innovation the college has seen many successes. Our programs are tied to industries that are vital to the state and to the region: energy, manufacturing, health care, sustainable design and construction, dairy and diversified agriculture, and software development and computer systems. With our core education linked to good jobs, we find employers wishing we produced more graduates. Our 2014 graduating class featured a 96% job placement rate. At our February career fair, there were nearly 100 employers each recruiting for multiple positions within their organizations. Given that environment, there were many more openings available than the number of graduates we produced last year.

Innovation has led to the launch of new programs this fall, new partnerships with industry, and new facilities being built and spaces renovated on our campuses. Collaboration has led to offices working together in new ways, faculty creating new general education requirements and revised curriculum maps, and sister colleges providing pathways for students to get the education they want in the format they need. The financial picture for the college has improved and, more importantly, the spirit of those that work and go to school at Vermont Tech has also regained equilibrium and positive momentum. These are good days for the college with many more to come.
Students & Student Life

Enrollment

As of September 1, 2015, our incoming class is 780 students. This class size is 38 students larger than a year ago, or a 5.1% increase. There are several key factors for the incoming enrollment increase. The RN-BSN program grew from 10 students in 2014-2015 to 40 for 2015-2016. The inaugural class of the Paramedicine Certificate enrolled 13 students. Veterinary Technology saw its largest incoming class ever with 35 students enrolled. Other majors with significant enrollment increases include Civil & Environmental Engineering Technology, Software & IT, and Diesel Technology. The Vermont Academy of Science and Technology enrolled 52 students, their second largest enrolling class ever.

Seventeen states and four countries are represented in the incoming class as well as 84% in-state students.

The overall headcount at Vermont Tech are running ahead of 2014. As of September 14th, we have a 1,505 headcount versus 1,476 a year ago on the same date (1,282 vs 1,269 FTE).

Direct Progression is a new innovation implemented for the nursing program this past enrollment cycle. In past years, students enrolled in the Practical Nursing (PN) program would have to reapply through the Admissions Office to gain entrance into the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program. The Direct Progression model now allows students who maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher the opportunity to transition into the ADN program without reapplying. There are 103 PN graduates directly progressing into the ADN program, as well as 30 ADN students progressing into the RN-BSN program. The 133 Direct Progression students are reflected in the 780 incoming class numbers.
Marketing

The Vermont Tech marketing strategy includes events, earned and paid media, and a strong social media presence. The college has reaped the benefit of the significant effort put into revitalizing the website in the last year.

The 2014-2015 events were very successful, including hosting second annual Try a Major Day events on both campuses with sizeable attendance at each. Overall, we hosted four Open Houses, two Instant Decisions Days and five Saturday Information Sessions over the course of the year. Through these events, we introduced 810 prospective students and more than 1,250 total guests to our faculty, staff and current students.

Overall, Google Analytics show a seven percent increase in site traffic comparing the fiscal years, July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014 vs. July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015. There is also a 21% increase in site visitors with a 14% increase in new visitors (44.2% compared to 38.8%). The home page has the most traffic, while the newly created content of the Majors and My Vermont Tech pages are second and third on the list of most visited pages. This demonstrates their relevance to the audience for whom the site was designed.

In addition to the website, at the start of this calendar year, Vermont Tech began pay-per-click digital advertising for both search and display networks. This accounted for two percent of all traffic to the website in the past year, despite running slightly less than half the year. A strong social media presence has contributed to a 62% increase in traffic from this source over the last year. Our largest source of Facebook fans is the 18-24 year old segment, at 16% of the total fan base.

In the News:
- Future Engineers Show Off Their Skills | WCAX
- Students Participate in Popsicle Stick Bridge Building Competition | WPTZ

Vermont Tech’s Civil & Environmental Engineering Tech Department hosted its 1st Annual Popsicle Stick Bridge Building Competition for Vermont middle and secondary students at the Randolph Center Campus on April 10, 2015. There were 22 teams competing, using only popsicle sticks, Elmer’s glue, tooth picks, and dental floss to make their bridge creations. At a time when Vermont and our nation need engineers more than ever, this competition introduces civil and environmental engineering careers to young Vermonters. The competition is a major component of Vermont Tech’s outreach efforts to encourage future careers in engineering. The construction and testing of model bridges promotes the study and application of principles of physics and engineering and it also helps students develop “hands-on” skills.

Through participating, students get a flavor of what it is to be an engineer, designing structures to a set of specs and then seeing them perform their function. Additionally, faculty visited participating schools to speak to students about engineering as a career choice and to kick-off the bridge building competition. This popsicle stick bridge building competition event is made possible by Vermont Tech, an educational grant and the generous support from its sponsors: VTrans, DuBois & King, Inc., EIV Technical Services and Stantec.
Residence Life
Randolph Center Campus

The residence life office was restructured this year to provide for a part-time Student Activities coordinator on the Randolph campus. This individual worked with the Student Council and the Student Events Board to prioritize and deliver a variety of programming and respond to needs identified in campus surveys. A weekly radio show was developed for WVT – “It’s a Student Affair” – which broadcasts locally and on the web throughout the year to promote student events and important information.

OTHER NOTABLE ITEMS THIS YEAR INCLUDE:

- A partnership with PBS to deliver a series of films on campus covering important social events such as Freedom Summer, gender issues, and the change in American society since the year 1964;
- An increasingly diverse campus with students from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, China, Germany, Haiti, the Cayman Islands and Nepal. The Multicultural Club offered programming for all students, including informational presentations and traditional meals to share in the dining hall;
- The formation of a dressage club that participated in intercollegiate competitions;
- Substantial investments in the residence hall infrastructure, furnishings, and amenities;
- A relationship with the local public transportation agency, the Stagecoach, which provided a weekly Saturday Shopper route to West Lebanon from campus along with a taxi service to Randolph and a commuter route north along I-89 to Montpelier.

Residence Life | Williston Campus

For the second academic year in a row we have seen record-breaking number of residential students at the Williston campus. We have once again 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 continued to work with a community partner, Riverside in the Village, to lease apartments for housing an additional twelve students.

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

Stan Costa, the Coordinator of Student Activities has worked to organize many fun activities for orientation weekend and variety of fun and educational activities are on the schedule for the fall semester. Some of these events include volunteering with the Chittenden County Humane Society, comedy nights, brew fests, outings to Vermont Lake Monster games, and many more.

The campus has also undergone several upgrades to give the students more to do with their downtime while on campus. The 200-Building game room has been upgraded with more and better equipment for students to enjoy. The Class of 2015 had the basketball area completely redone with a new basketball hoop, equipment and a repaved court. Outside Williston Hall, the BBQ patio has been upgraded from a spot to just grill, to a fun hang-out spot many students are already enjoying.
Athletics

The Vermont Tech Athletic Department honored 10 athletes with 15 athletic and academic achievement awards at the annual Vermont Tech convocation on April 9. Eight 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.

REBECCA BROADBENT, in her freshman year, captured the Yankee Small College Conference (YSCC) Individual title in Women's Cross Country. Broadbent led the entire race, winning the 6K in 25:02. A few weeks later, Broadbent improved her time (24:23 6K), finishing 7th at the USCAA National Championship. Broadbent was honored by the YSCC with Runner of the Year and by the USCAA with All-American.

JAMAL HUGHES, a junior guard on the basketball team, was honored by the USCAA for making the All-American team. He averaged 19.0 points per game and hitting 72% from the free throw line. Hughes also reached a milestone this season by hitting 1,000 points in two seasons with the Green Knights.

PAIGE WELLS, a senior forward, was honored by the USCAA for making honorable mention USCAA All-American. Wells averaged 13.3 points per game and 13.2 rebounds per game. Wells also reached two milestones this season hitting 1,000 points and grabbing 1,000 rebounds.

Career Fair

This event, staged as a trade show, brings employers together with students to discuss their companies, products and career opportunities. It’s a chance for employers and students to network and explore possibilities with each other. This year’s fair was a huge success with a record-setting number of exhibitors, including GW Plastics, Darn Tough Vermont, IBM and My Web Grocer. A total of 97 employers exhibited at the March 4, 2015 event, far surpassing previous career fair averages of 65-75 exhibitors. The drastic rise in employer exhibitors demonstrates the growing demand for Vermont Tech graduates, not only in the state, but around the region as well. The Career Fair gave students and employers a chance to begin relationships before graduation. The college plans to increase the size of next year’s Career Fair to approximately 109 exhibitors to accommodate anticipated growth and employer need.

Business Notes: March 22, 2015 | Valley News
Promotions and Tenure

PROMOTED TO RANK OF PROFESSOR:
- Michael Marceau, of the Electrical and Computer departments

PROMOTED TO RANK OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE:
- Sarah Billings-Berg of the Nursing Department
- Jean Hakim, of the Computer Information Department
- Mary O’Leary, of the Civil Engineering Department
- Christopher Smith, a member of the English Department
- Lori Stroutos, department chair of the Business Department
- Eric Wolinsky, a member of the Construction Department

New Full-time Faculty

Renee Cather, Assistant Professor of Nursing; Aimee Creelman, Assistant Professor of Nursing; Tracie Crawford, Assistant Professor of Nursing; Linda Havey, Assistant Professor of Nursing; Anna May Seaver, Assistant Professor of Nursing

HIRED AS FULL TIME FACULTY AFTER TWO ONE-YEAR POSITIONS:
- Jeremy Cornwall, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engin. Tech.
- Lisa Sullivan, Assistant Professor of Nursing

New Administrative Staff

ADMINISTRATION
- Amanda Chaulk, Director of Marketing and Communications

ADMISSIONS
- Dwight Cross, Associate Dean of Enrollment and Alumni Affairs; Cory LuSSier, Assistant Director of Admissions/Campus Visit & Outreach Coordinator; Shawn McElwain, Assistant Director of Admissions/Transfer Coordinator

NURSING
- Sarah Billings-Berg, Interim Nursing Site Director, Northeast Kingdom; Gerri-Lynn Cohen, Staff Assistant; Cynthia Martindill, Associate Dean of Nursing; Elizabeth Steele, Nursing Site Director, Southeast Region

FACILITIES
- Travis Allen, Senior Mechanical Systems Technician; Russel Messier, Maintenance Technician II; Christina Potwin, Custodian III; Curt Ukasick, Senior Mechanic Systems Technician (new position for Curt with the College)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
- Michelle Graham, Executive Assistant to the President

PUBLIC SAFETY
- Troy Seckington, Public Safety Officer

HARTNESS LIBRARY
- Candy Daniels, Acquisitions Coordinator; Caitlin Edney, Library I, Randolph Center; Kim Hannon-Brobst, Remote Access Coordinator (new position with the college); Kate Steward, Circulation Coordinator

STUDENT AFFAIRS
- Alexander Costa, Coordinator of Student Activities/Residence Hall Director, Williston; Kathleen Mason, International Student Resource Coordinator, Randolph Center; Caroline Jones, International Student Resource Coordinator, Williston; Seth Warren, Coordinator of Student Activities/Residence Hall Director, Randolph Center

CEWD
- Beth Demers, Project Manager, CEWD

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
- Rachel Krevetski, Laboratory Technician/Chemical Hygiene Officer

ANAEROBIC DIGESTER
- Zyla Nuite, Senior Mechanical Systems Technician

Retirements

HARTNESS LIBRARY
- Nancy Aitken, Rebecca Lafferty, Michael Taylor

FACILITIES
- Ralph Allen, Robert Durkee, Clark Hunt, Tom Milne, Ron Wallen

BUSINESS OFFICE
- Jean Alexander

VIT
- Gordon Deganan
Part-Time Faculty Award

In 2011, the College brought back the tradition of honoring part-time faculty. The awards are given biannually, alternating with the Harold G. Wirtz Master Teacher Award given to a full-time faculty member.

Nominations for the award are solicited from department and program chairs, faculty, students and staff. These nominations are given to the Peer Review Committee, who individually examines the student evaluations, classroom observations and personnel files of the nominees. This year, from several nominations, Linda Gustafson, a member of the English, Humanities, and Social Sciences Department, was selected by the Peer Review Committee as the Williston Campus recipient. The Randolph Center Campus recipient selected by the Committee is Samuel Colwell, an instructor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology program. Both faculty received their awards during the 2015 Commencement ceremonies.

Curriculum Planning/Credit Consolidation

At the request of the President, all departments (with the exception of nursing and allied health) reduced their normal degree credits to 124/125 in a bachelor’s degree program and to 64/65 in an associate degree program. The higher number applies to degree programs that require six credits of Pre-Calculus in their freshman year. Program credit reductions were implemented as a way to balance the increasing cost of instruction with the level of tuition revenue the College receives.

Program departments have pared degree credits by as many as 14 credits in a bachelor’s program and by as many as six credits in an associate program. Because of the thoughtful evaluation by department faculty, we are confident that credit reductions will not adversely affect student outcomes or program objectives.

CCV - Vermont Tech Pathways

Vermont Tech now has three articulated pathways between the Community College of Vermont (CCV) and the college: AAS in STEM Studies from CCV provides the first two years of the BS in Renewable Energy and the Technology Certificate from CCV provides the first year of the associate degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. For students graduating from CCV with an associate degree, they can enter Vermont Tech with junior status in the BS in Business Technology and Management and the BS in Applied Business Management, which is offered completely online.
Students Take 1st Place in National SEI Design Competition

Vermont Tech is pleased to announce that a team comprised of Alyshia Jones from Randolph, VT, David Cacciamani from Hyde Park, VT and William A. Moore IV of Milton, VT placed first in the American Society of Civil Engineers’ Structural Engineering Institute’s (SEI) Student Design Competition in April 2015. All three individuals are 2014 graduates of the Architectural Engineering Technology Bachelor’s program. The project submitted for the competition involved selection of an appropriate structural system, determination and application of appropriate design loads, and development of construction documents and plans illustrating how the system would perform.

Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering Technology

The Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering Technology will be the first engineering technology bachelor's degree program - and probably the only engineering program - in Vermont designed to be accessible to working Vermonters. By adapting CCV’s model of accessibility, combined with

“The beauty of creating a program designed to meet the needs of working Vermonters is that is is also convenient for traditional college students.”

- DR. JOHN KIDDER
CHAIR OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Vermont Tech’s expertise in applied engineering education, Vermont Tech has created a program to meet the needs of Vermont's advanced manufacturing industry. "The beauty of creating a program designed to meet the needs of working Vermonters is that it is also convenient for traditional college students," said Dr. John Kidder, chair of the Mechanical Engineering Technology Department.
Entrepreneurship Minor/Concentration and Specialization in Small Business Planning

The new minor/concentration in entrepreneurship and the specialization in small business planning launch this fall. Students in business can get a concentration in entrepreneurship and students outside of business have the option of completing the minor. Through a combination of business planning and entrepreneurship courses, students of any major can enhance their degrees and gain the skills associated with starting their own business or pursuing a career in a start-up enterprise.

Paramedicine Certificate

While developed in 2014, the Paramedicine Certificate was the first in Vermont to apply for and receive Gainful Employment approval to afford students eligibility for federal financial aid during their studies in the program. Enrolling for fall 2015, the program is offered from the Williston campus and the Bennington extended site.

General Education

In response to the concerns cited in the NEASC 2010 report, as well as our sense that we could provide students with a better appreciation of the arts, humanities and social sciences, a General Education Taskforce was formed in 2011. In the past year, we have adopted a general education model that is built around two required “bookend” courses; one to be taken in a student’s freshman or sophomore year and the other in her/his junior or senior year. The first bookend course, “Self, Career, and Culture,” is an interdisciplinary course which introduces students to the nature of baccalaureate learning and enables better academic planning for follow-on general-education coursework. The second bookend course is a hands-on seminar in which interdisciplinary student teams look at a technical problem but focus on the cultural, religious, economic, aesthetic, and related issues that would be part of a solution.

Between the two bookend courses, students will take twelve elective credits in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. The college has expanded our selection of courses that integrate these disciplines with technical learning. Courses such as Organizational Communication, History and Theory of Computation, Renewable Energy, and The Social Ecology of Food are the types of integrated technical/social courses we hope will further expand students’ understanding of society, humanities, and the arts.
Commencements

On May 16 & 17, Vermont Tech celebrated the college’s 149th annual commencement ceremony. NASA Flight Director Zebulon Scoville, a native of Middlesex, Vermont and graduate of Union 32 High School in East Montpelier, returned to Vermont to inspire and encourage Vermont Tech’s graduates with this year’s commencement speech. Scoville is currently based at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center and is the Lead Flight Director on Expedition 52. He also leads the International Space Station Flight Control team and is responsible for pre-flight mission development and real-time mission execution. At three different ceremonies through the weekend, the college honored more than 460 graduates. Of those graduating, 399 (86%) were Vermon ters. The Nursing Department, which delivers its program in multiple locations around the state, featured the largest number of graduates. One hundred forty-four (144) nursing students received degrees.

Vermont Tech is one of just two Vermont schools to be ranked in the Best Regional Colleges of the North category and is the only Vermont college to be included in the rankings for the Top Public Schools for regional colleges in the North.

US News & World Report

In the annual best colleges’ rankings by U.S. News & World Report, Vermont Tech is pleased to announce that the college has been ranked among the Top Public Schools and the Best Regional Colleges. Within the Regional Colleges of the North category, Vermont Tech is ranked No. 12 of the Top Public Schools, and the college has earned the No. 36 spot for Best Regional Colleges.
Continuing Education & 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.

The total number of CEWD enrollments for the past year

2,423

In the past year, CEWD continues to offer credit-bearing courses with UTC-Goodrich, GE, GS Precision, and consortium of GW Plastics, North Hartland Tools, Concepts NREC and NE Precision with new cohorts beginning this fall.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS AND OUTCOMES INCLUDE:

- CEWD has received $18,000 from Vermont Training Program to help support credit courses in the Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship program.
- The Paramedicine Certificate was approved for financial aid eligibility through US Department of Education Gainful Employment process. US EPA accredited the Lead Renovator Initial and Refresher Courses.
- CEWD co-hosted the secondary Career and Technical Educator Summer Conference: Career and College Ready Education in Action held August 4-5, 2014. Approximately 240 CTE teachers/administrators attended. CEWD is also the fiscal agent for their Perkins Funding this year.
- The CEWD application for accreditation for the Photovoltaic Installer program through IREC Interstate Renewable Energy Council was accepted and is in process.
- CEWD collaborated with the state on the development of an S License and continuing education class being offered for PV. This was reviewed and approved for continuing education in the fall of 2014 and offered the first class was held in April.
- Vermont Tech offered 314 students Concurrent Enrollment opportunities to high school students statewide – these students receive Vermont Tech credit for courses taught by the high school/tech center teacher in their respective schools.
  
  Fall 2014: 63  |  Spring 2015: 251  |  Total: 314

- The Career and Technical Teacher Education Program currently has 58 teacher-candidates in the program.
- Electrical and Plumbing Apprenticeship graduation was held April 25, 2015
  » 91 graduates
  » 525 enrolled
  » 34 classes were offered around the state and through VIT
  » 98% of the students pass with a grade of 70% or better for period 2014-2015
  » Licensing exam pass rate (from the graduating class of April 2014) = plumbing had a 100% pass rate and electrical had an 86% pass rate.
The Institute for Applied Agriculture and Food Systems has delivered 29 short courses in agriculture to a total of 236 students since the institute began operations in the spring of 2014. Of the 236 students, approximately 32 have taken additional courses. Due to the reliable demand for the most popular topics, course schedules are planned a year in advance. These established courses are in welding, cheese-making, brewing, distilling, tractor safety, wild-crafting, farm human resource management, digester operations, viticulture, maple production, herd care, and vegetable production. For the remainder of the grant period, we plan to continue delivering established courses, experimenting with courses in equipment repair, blueberries, cider, and hops production, and work to develop certificate programs in welding, dairy farm management, vegetable production and forestry that are one-to-three semesters in duration.

The institute was able to purchase $200,000 of state-of-the-art dragline manure-delivery equipment with money from our TAACCCT grant. The cutting-edge field nutrient application techniques support Vermont’s water quality initiatives and show potential to improve yields and decrease costs. The remaining equipment money is being applied to the construction of a dairy processing laboratory at the newly-donated Norwich Farms campus. Partnering with well-respected cheese makers will provide the delivery of world-leading dairy-processing education.

The second year of full operation has moved the institute well on its way towards the mission of facilitating educational programs, ranging from one day to doctorate, around agriculture and food production in addition to creating a working food-cycle laboratory for applied use by education and research. Our progress is due to a continued focus on identifying and employing enthusiastic, knowledgeable individuals that are long on specific practice and driven to expand their fields.
Scholarships and Donations

A number of new scholarships were created in this past year, attributable to both partnerships with businesses and gifts from estates. Vermont Tech is enormously grateful for the trust donors place in the college to carry out their objectives and wishes for future generations. The new scholarships include:

**GW Plastics Carl Symons Scholarship**
Scholarships are now being offered to freshmen, Vermont residents of either Windsor or Orange County, in the Mechanical Engineering Technology and the Manufacturing Technology programs.

**PC Construction Scholarship**
Scholarships are available to both Civil Engineering and/or Construction Management majors in their second or third year of their program.

**Jimi Grant Scholarship**
This endowment scholarship was created in honor of the late Jimi Grant to help create opportunity for needy students to access education. It is designated for students in computer science, renewable energy technology, civil and environmental engineering technology, architectural and building engineering technology, mechanical engineering technology, construction management, or electrical engineering technology.

**Bob Williams Memorial Scholarship**
This scholarship is given to a Vermont or New Hampshire resident who will study in the Diesel Technology Program. Mr. Williams was passionate about the construction equipment industry, loved Vermont and felt strongly about helping young people get a start in their careers. The goal of this scholarship is to help a student interested in the construction equipment industry.

**John D. Bryant Memorial Scholarship**
The Green Mountain Humane Society established a scholarship in memory of their founder, John D. Bryant. The mission of GMHS has been to address the cause of problems that create the need for shelters and to remind those around us that humane treatment, care, concern and respect for all living creatures is a responsibility we all must share.

### ADDITIONAL DONATIONS INCLUDE:
- George Dodge .............................................. $69,730.39
- State of Vermont ........................................... $54,702
- David Blittersdorf ....................................... $25,019
- George Daly ................................................ $50,000
- AAA of Northern New England ................. $15,000
  (to Endowment)
FACILITIES

Norwich Farms

In June, Vermont Tech accepted a philanthropic donation of a high-quality, 40-stall operating dairy farm in Norwich, Vermont, including 350 acres, three residential buildings and multiple barn buildings. The Norwich Farms property and ensuing partnerships offer the college the opportunity to diversify its agriculture education to better align with industry trends, improve the quality of the learning facility for our students, and to mitigate ongoing expenses of the current dairy operation and realize an operational and financial advantage.

Mechanical and Electrical Lab State Appropriation

Vermont Tech was awarded a $1M for mechanical and electrical engineering laboratory improvements in FY2016 by the Vermont State Legislature. The college will receive another $500,000 in FY2017 based on raising a matching fund of $500,000 to support our academic facilities. Renovations began on the labs and equipment purchases for both Randolph and Williston during the summer and were in place for the start of the fall semester. To mark the occasion, Governor Shumlin signed the bill on the Randolph Center campus on June 23rd at the Administrative Building courtyard.

IN THE NEWS:
Norwich Dairy Farm Donated to Vermont Tech | WCAX

IN THE NEWS:
Shumlin Signs Off on Two Capital Bill Projects at Vermont Technical College | VTdigger
The State of Vermont selected Vermont Tech’s Randolph Center campus for their new $26 million lab building. The college is enthusiastic about the increased activity on the campus, the 26 scientists who will come to work in Randolph every day, and the opportunities that will bring to Vermont Tech students, programs, the state, and faculty. Even though the building is not scheduled to be open until the spring of 2018, Vermont Tech students are already involved in the design, permitting, and in the future, building of the state lab.

IN THE NEWS:

New State Lab Plan Draws Crowd in Randolph | VPR

Big Bertha

The construction and site work to Vermont Tech’s bio digester – nicknamed Big Bertha - is now finished. The operations staff is still working out some of the operational challenges, but overall the plant is functioning as designed with feedstock primarily coming from the Water Street and neighboring farms, beer waste from two local-Vermont breweries and a by-product from a bio-diesel facility. Those watching Big Bertha’s performance are eagerly anticipating increasing output when the approval for other local food wastes are added to the bio digester’s diet. Educational programming surrounding the digester is proving to be invaluable as the fourth set of certificate students are working on its performance. The digester could not be the success it is without the continued support of the Vermont Tech farm staff and the entire facilities team.

Conferences & Events

Vermont Tech hosted a number of conferences and camps on its Randolph Center campus during the summer semester. With a goal of bringing middle and high school students to the college, Vermont Tech’s conference coordinator worked with returning groups, HOBY, Girl’s State, Lyra Summer Music Institute, Governor’s Institute, and Vermont Voltage Soccer Camp. Welcomed to campus for the first time, the college was also proud to host Rosie’s Girls and College Quest. In addition, the office hosted professional events and helped facilitate Vermont Tech’s Summer Bridge program. With a high-level of professionalism and organization, the conference and events staff, along with our Sodexo partners, created positive awareness of the college among prospective students and the community, all while generating a quarter of a million dollars in revenue for the college.
Fiscal year 2015 was another productive and rewarding year for Vermont Interactive Technologies (VIT). The organization closed FY15 with a healthy surplus for the eleventh year in a row. After 27 years of service to Vermonters, FY15 marks the final full fiscal year of VIT’s operation. Due to waning state support, VIT is scheduled to close the doors of its 20 video-enabled classrooms around the state on December 31, 2015.

Over the past 27 years, VIT has made it possible for hundreds of organizations (in the education, nonprofit, government and business categories) to provide education, training, and information to people in all areas of the state. Since 1988, more than 350,000 Vermonters have accessed education and training programs via VIT. Over the years VIT has made connections between Vermont and 40 states and at least 10 countries. Last year alone VIT logged close to 14,000 hours on its classroom-based system and hosted more than 18,000 students and participants.

Since 1988, more than 350,000 Vermonters have accessed education and training programs via VIT.

VIT has served Vermont well. In addition to benefiting Vermont citizens, VIT also benefited Vermont’s environment. In an average year, use of VIT’s services saved Vermonters and Vermont 4,872,696 miles—the equivalent to driving to the moon & back more than 10 times, 90,480 hours of travel time, 190 tons of air pollution, 2,500 tons of greenhouse gases, and $4,308,623.

As technology has rapidly advanced and Vermonters’ needs have change, the VIT team has consistently demonstrated the ability to tailor-build technological solutions for its users. VIT won two prestigious awards and national recognition in recent years. 1. The United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) 21st Century Best Practices Award for excellence in distance learning. These prestigious awards are presented annually to organizations engaged in the development and delivery of distance learning programs. 2. The Computerworld Honors Program Laureate for visionary applications of information technology promoting positive social, economic and educational change. All laureates were selected following a rigorous application and review process. VIT was named a
laureate in the Training/Education category for its use of information technology to create and improve learning programs and/or extend the reach of education and training to new and/or wider audiences, particularly those previously underserved. Other laureates named in this same category were NASA, Duke University, and Harvard Business Publishing.

The VIT Team would like to thank its many clients for their loyalty through the years. In particular, VIT would like to thank Vermont Tech for serving as an early adopter and high volume client for the past 27 years. The VIT team has taken great pride and pleasure in serving the Vermont Tech faculty, staff and students and sends best wishes for continued success.

Congratulations and thanks are also due to the VIT team and Coordinating Council, long-time employees and board members who have worked tirelessly to provide a high-quality system and high-level customer service.

VIT TEAM MEMBERS:
TARA LIDSTONE, M.A.Ed., Executive Director
JOHN SHEETS, C.E., NIULPE, Director of Technical Operations
FRED MILLER, M.A.Ed., Regional Manager
SHANNON DEVEREUX, M.A.Ed., Regional Manager
MICHELLE PARENT, B.A.Ed., Program & Outreach Coordinator
STEVE SCHOUTEN, Regional Manager
JIM DEGNAN, Head Technician
BRUCE AMSDEN, Managing Technician
KATRIN HELGASON, Scheduling & Business Operations Coordinator

*Plus 40 very valuable part-time employees who were the faces of VIT and first line of support for clients at the 20 statewide classrooms.

VIT COORDINATING COUNCIL MEMBERS:
BARBARA GRIMES, Chair, General Manager, retired, Burlington Electric Department
NORBIE LAVIGNE, Plant Manager, retired, IBM
JOHN SAYLES, CEO, Vermont Foodbank
RICH SMITH, President, Vermont Captive Insurance Association
KATHLEEN KEENAN, Vermont State Representative
JEANETTE WHITE, Vermont State Senator

In these final months of operation, the VIT team will do its best to deliver the high quality service Vermonters have come to expect and to aid its clients in transitioning their programs to an alternate delivery method. With both pride and appreciation, the VIT submits this annual report for the final time.
Hartness Library

The Library catalog Vufind interface has been in use for several semesters now and feedback about the improved experience has been positive. Website metrics show that students access resources more so on portable devices, so a recent update includes a more mobile-friendly version of Vufind. For example, comparing fall 2013 to fall 2014, Hartness users (CCV and VTC) accessing our resources using a mobile device increased by 300% and tablet access increased by 180%.

Vermont Tech’s Embedded Librarian program has continued to expand over the last year, reaching 100% coverage in nursing remote and BSN classes. To support faculty using Library services and resources in Moodle, Hartness rolled out Library in Moodle (LIM), a new approach for helping faculty integrate library resources and services into the Moodle classroom environment. With LIM, faculty have several options that allow them to tailor library integration into a Moodle class to their specific needs.

Hartness Library hosted the Randolph Regional Information Literacy Summit last fall to coincide with National Information Literacy Awareness Month. Hartness invited librarians and interested educators from Randolph area schools and the Public Library to join staff to talk about the role of librarians in teaching and supporting information literacy in the community. Staff also presented at several events including the VSC Academic Retreat Hartness Helps You Help Yourself (and your students):

- Library access and engagement in Moodle (April Shaw, VTC and Rebecca Cochran, CCV). Eileen Gatti (Assistant Director) and Jane Kearns (Director) presented at the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) New England Annual Conference in Worcester, MA on Combining Cultures: The story of two Colleges with one library.

Hartness hosted many local artists and several cultural events this year. Therapy dogs visited Hartness during exam week to an enthusiastic group of students and the Zeichner Family Band played in the library early in the semester. Several local artists displayed their work including CCV’s Phil Roberston’s and former Vermont Tech math professor, Paul Calter.
Distance Learning

As VIT’s operations wind down, Vermont Tech staff has been working to get new technology in place to ensure continuity of service to our students. To this end, there are now distance education classrooms at campuses in Williston, Randolph Center, Brattleboro and Bennington, as well as at Stafford Technical Center in Rutland. Work will continue this fall with host institutions at six other sites around the state.

Each classroom has two 70-inch television monitors mounted on the front wall, one of which is a touch screen and can be used as an interactive whiteboard. These can be connected between sites to allow people at both ends to simultaneously write on them.

Each room also has three cameras; two for different instructor positions and one to show the students, and cameras are turned on and off as needed. This is done automatically with sensors in the floor mats or manually using buttons at the instructor station. The second television monitor is usually used to display the camera of the remote site but either screen can also be used for sharing PowerPoint presentations, etc., as a projector typically would. Microphones and speakers provide audio between the sites.

The new paramedicine program was launched using this technology from the rooms in Bennington and Williston, and advanced manufacturing was similarly captured in Rutland and Randolph Center. Our nursing and apprenticeship programs are still using VIT this fall, but will transition to the new technology for the spring 2016 semester.

Additionally, a room has been set up on the Randolph Center campus specifically to expand how traditional lectures are delivered with a white board. The room contains three cameras that turn on and off as the instructor moves around the front of the room. It is being used to deliver lectures synchronously to both students in-person in Randolph Center and in our distance-learning room in Williston. Lectures are also being recorded for asynchronous delivery to students with work obligations who cannot meet at the scheduled time.

Staffing

Logan Stahler, the long-time Coordinator of Instructional Technology, left the college for a similar position at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center with an active search for his replacement underway. A new position has been created and the search begun to help with the added support load of the distance learning sites.

Network Port Reduction

As time has allowed, unused network jacks are being removing around distance learning sites to help reduce the amount of equipment to be purchased the next time upgrades are needed. This helps to focus resources on upgrades to the wireless network, which nearly everyone prefers to use.

Computer Lab Upgrades

Several computer labs have been upgraded over the past year and one was eliminated, where scheduling allowed, on our Randolph Center campus. In evaluating cost-savings, student-owned laptops were considered in lieu of the college purchasing additional resources. The result was a detrimental loss of the controlled environment essential to an instructor’s ability to deliver their content effectively, and the scheme was abandoned.
Rosie’s Girls Residential Camp

Vermont Tech held the first-ever Rosie’s Girls STEM Leadership Camp in June - five days/four nights - for 16 Vermont girls entering 9th and 10th grades in the fall. The camp helps build strong, powerful, confident young women through hands-on exploration of STEM and skilled-trades activities, such as civil and environmental engineering, construction, chemistry, fire science, computer information systems, plus leadership skill development and broad career exposure. Girls who participated in Vermont Tech’s Rosie’s Girls now join a year-long mentoring program where they are paired with adult women who work in STEM fields. Their mentors will nurture their work and career interests through structured opportunities and regular interaction throughout the upcoming academic year.

The camp helps build strong, powerful, confident young women through hands-on exploration of STEM and skilled-trades activities.
Montpelier Parklet 2.0

Vermont Tech students worked with Montpelier property owners and the City to design a **dynamic public space** that will feature a shade pergola, seating, L.E.D. lighting, flowers, rain water catchment, mural and public bike parking. The Montpelier Pocket Park was created under the guidance of assistant professor and local architect Ward Joyce. **Students and community members installed and maintained the park over the summer.** A grand opening event took place on May 26, 2015.

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**AeroCamp**

AeroCamp 2015 is a program designed to give young people a unique opportunity to **explore the world of aviation and aerospace.** As a member of the Flight School Association of North America, our flight school is proud to host AeroCamp 2015 for the kids in our community. AeroCamp 2015 is for **youth ages 12-18 who want to learn about the exciting and dynamic world of aviation,** and the training that can lead to careers flying airplanes.

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**IN THE NEWS:**

[**Aero Camp Takes Off for Young Aviators**](https://www.burlingtonfreepress.com)

*Burlington Free Press*
SPECIAL COMMENTS PLANS

Solar Array

Vermont Environmental Research Associates distributed a 45-day notice in May to all interested parties about their plan to apply for a Certificate of Public Good with the Vermont Public Service Board for the **500kW solar array to be installed on about six acres of the Randolph Center campus** on the open land along the south side of Furnace Street. The project offers the opportunity to expand students’ educational engagement in renewable technologies at scale and is part of a vision for modeling the local distribution of energy production and sustainability that are an increasing part of Vermont communities.

17th Annual Women Can Do!

Women Can Do! is a one-day career immersion experience for 9-12th grade girls from across Vermont. It features dozens of hands-on workshops and action stations highlighting careers in the skilled trades and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields. Vermont Tech, Randolph Center Campus once again will host this event that now serves nearly **600 YOUNG WOMEN** and teachers from more than **60 SCHOOLS**.

Vermont Tech is proud to be a partner/sponsor in this program. More than **35 workshops** highlight careers in architecture, electrical and mechanical engineering, auto and diesel tech, aviation, computer sciences, agriculture, green energy, fire and public safety, construction trades, and other non-traditional careers for women. Many of the workshops and outside-action stations will be offered by our own Vermont Tech faculty, alums and current students. Engaging faculty, students, STEM outreach, Admissions and Marketing teams is an excellent way to showcase the college and its programs to girls eager to learn more about STEM fields.

Interim NEASC Report

Upon receipt of a 10-year reaccreditation in 2010, NEASC requested that Vermont submit a Fifth-Year Interim Report of changes and updates since the 2010 visit. The Interim Report requests updates on each of the eleven NEASC standards, specific narratives addressing areas of concern from the 2010 accreditation, a reflective essay on outcomes assessment, and section that looks ahead to the next five years. Additionally, many data reports are required. Vermont Tech submitted its Interim Report September 1, 2015. We addressed in depth our new General Education model, our financial status, student outcomes measurement, and student services.

Another aspect of the Interim Report process is a site visit to any new college locations where a student can earn at least one-half of the credits necessary for a degree. In 2014, Vermont Tech added our site at General Electric (GE) in North Clarendon to our list of locations because the partnership with GE has grown such that students now earn at least one-half of an associate degree in manufacturing. As a result, we also prepared a special report on the GE partnership, and had a site visit with a NEASC evaluator in June. The visit was very productive and the evaluator wrote a positive report on our partnership, concluding, "The partnership allows the College to fulfill its mission and purposes by preparing students for immediate success and productivity in the workplace and serves as a model of VTC's successful approach to selecting and managing its off-campus locations."
In a **big step for both the department and the college**, the Computer and Information Systems Department will be seeking the final approvals for a new **Master of Science in Software Engineering (MS/SE) this fall**. Depending on the student’s background, the degree requires 32-45 credits and includes a final project. Like all programs at the college, the degree is **focused on developing skills for the workplace, not research**. Most students are anticipated to be full-time software developers in the region, taking 1-2 courses per semester. Pending final approvals, the program will start accepting students for the fall of 2016, ten years after the first undergraduate software engineering and information technology students arrived at the college.

The CIS department is now the second largest department in the college, trailing only nursing. The vast majority of the **roughly 200 students enrolled in the three computing majors stay for a four year degree**. This fall’s incoming class set a new record, with 45 students. Graduates primarily move into the thriving Vermont software industry.

While the software industry is expecting ever stronger background in their workforce, the CIS department is particularly well-suited to deliver that background. **The full-time faculty averages 11 years of industry experience and 80% hold a doctorate.** With this program, the department will be able to maintain engagement with their existing students further into their career and build connections to new students actively working in the local industry, while exposing the undergraduate students to a wider range of working professionals to further their own career preparation.

Also in development in the CIS department, a series of post-degree certificates targeting career changers is gearing up for enrollment beginning in the spring 2016 semester. The Certificate in Advanced Software Development provides the background necessary to enter the MS/SE program.