VERMONT TECH

PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL REPORT

A report for the Vermont State College Board of Trustees | September 2016
The hard work and quality of Vermont Tech gained some important national recognition in the past year. *U.S. News & World Report* announced their 2016 rankings with Vermont Tech making significant leaps in its standings. The college is now ranked 24th among the Best Northeast Regional Colleges in the annual Best College rankings, up 12 spots from the previous year. In the public college category, Vermont Tech ranks 8th in the Northeast region, rising three places. The College Scorecard tool, introduced by the U.S. Department of Education to give parents and students easy access to data, highlights Vermont Tech’s ranking as 4th in the state for highest salaries of its graduates, following three other private Vermont institutions. The return on investment of a Vermont Tech degree is especially substantial when compared with the average annual cost and average debt of graduates among the top four institutions in the state.

In addition to the national and state standings, Vermont Tech staked significant ground in an initiative to increase female enrollments among its historically male-dominated majors. At a press conference in February, the college announced goals to increase women in Construction Management, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Software Engineering, and Computer Information Technology. The enrollment targets project annual growth of nearly 40%, each year for the next three years starting in the fall of 2016.

The year saw the development of and recruitment for several new certificate programs and the new master’s degree in software engineering, including certificates in forestry, dairy production & processing, welding, sustainable vegetable production, software and advanced software development, computer networking and web development. The college also formally added a distance site in Rutland and a residential campus at the Norwich Farm to its statewide footprint.

President Smith also initiated a strategic planning process by charging a steering committee with the research, analysis and development of priorities for the college in the spring and summer semesters. The Institutional Priorities committee developed a draft report based on input from faculty, staff and students of Vermont Tech.

At the end of the spring semester, President Smith announced that he would be leaving the college. The Chancellor and Board of Trustees quickly reached out to the Vermont Tech community for input about an interim president and search process, and successfully identified Patricia Moulton as President Smith’s replacement on an interim basis. The strategic plan will be implemented under the direction of Interim President Moulton.
STUDENTS & STUDENT LIFE

Enrollment

As of September 1, 2016, our incoming class is 680 students. This class size is 33 students larger than a year ago, or a 5.1% increase. There are several key factors for the incoming enrollment increase. The VAST program enrolled their largest class ever with 62 students. The Practical Nursing program was 17 students larger than a year ago due to opening a new cohort of nine students in Williston, as well as filling more seats in Brattleboro and Bennington compared to the previous year. The inaugural class of the Masters in Software Engineering program enrolled seven students. The RN to BSN program grew significantly this past year with 95 students currently enrolled in the BSN program. Veterinary Technology continued with their second year of expanded enrollment with a class of 36 students.

The overall headcount at Vermont Tech is ahead of last year. Also as of September 1st, we had a 1,548 headcount versus 1,474 (+5%) a year ago on the same date (1,329 vs 1,281 +2.6% FTE count).

The 2015-2016 events were very successful, including hosting the third annual Try a Major Day events on both campuses with sizeable attendance at each. Overall, we hosted four Open Houses, two Instant Decision Days and seven Saturday Information Sessions over the course of the year. Through these events, we brought over 700 prospective students to our campuses.

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Saturdays info sessions:
7 info sessions
80 students, 196 total guests

Randolph Center Fall Open House:
119 students, 229 total guests

Wilmington Fall Open House:
74 students, 142 total guests

Saturday info sessions:
7 info sessions
80 students, 196 total guests

Instant decision days:
31 students

Randolph Spring Open House:
73 students, 185 total guests

Wilmington Spring Open House:
34 students, 63 total guests

Williston try a major day:
178 students, 201 total guests

Randolph try a major day:
256 students, 296 total guests
Marketing

The Vermont Tech marketing strategy was focused on areas of growth potential:

**Vermont awareness**

**Vermont, New England and Upstate New York lead acquisition**

**Ongoing development of content**

The plan's design was to raise awareness of Vermont Tech's unique position as a provider of applied learning in a community-based environment which leads to successful careers and outcomes for Vermont Tech students. Spreading this knowledge was intended to enable the word-of-mouth marketing that is so effective for Vermont Tech's recruitment and enrollment efforts. Based on target audiences of prospective students and their trusted advisors – parents and family members, peers – as the primary and teachers, school counselors and VSAC as secondary audiences, the plan utilized television and cable advertising, radio underwriting, a robust social media footprint, and print and digital advertising with a special focus on programmatic buying and STEM media.

Building on the valuable assets of the college - its stories of student success during college and after - and recognizing the high value of the new website, quality photography and print collateral, the marketing plan content development focused on new video and web-based assets for the college. The new videos developed will be used in communication workflows for inquiries, as well as in the college's social media channels. In addition to media presence, the marketing campaign incorporated events and outreach initiatives for prospective students.

**The overall metrics that the marketing funnel achieved were:**

- **528,200 web visits**
- **5,068 inquiries**
- **1,663 applications**

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**Manufacturing Day**

**OCTOBER 2, 2015**

Each year, manufacturers, educational institutions and others host events designed to highlight the importance of manufacturing to the nation's economy and draw attention to the many rewarding high-skill jobs in manufacturing fields. Manufacturing Day™ is a celebration of modern manufacturing meant to inspire the next generation of manufacturers.

Vermont Tech hosted an open house on its Randolph Center campus on October 2, 2015 in celebration of National Manufacturing Day. The college opened its doors to the newly renovated lab space with current students on hand to demonstrate some of the newly installed industry-grade equipment. The renovation was made possible by a $1M appropriation from the Vermont State Legislative capital budget. The faculty also attended the open house to talk about the new BS in Manufacturing Engineering Technology degree that launched in fall.

The Manufacturing Day event was the unveiling of the renovations and showed what our students had been using since the start of the school year, including the production room with new CNC mills and lathes, 3D prototyping equipment, Virtual Workstations and use of virtual lab instruments, and a metrology lab for teaching how to test and validate the tolerances of manufactured goods.

The event was well-attended by GW Plastic’s School of Tech students, area manufacturing companies, legislative representatives and local media. The college intends to support National Manufacturing Day in 2016.

**IN THE NEWS:**

Residence Life

Randolph Center Campus

Campus life was back in full swing this year, as the office of Student Affairs continued to expand on some of the initiatives from the previous year while taking steps forward into new territory. With a newly hired full time Coordinator of Student Activities working with student council, Randolph Center was able to build upon their diverse programming opportunities for students. Events last year included trips to see the Boston Bruins, a cruise around Lake Champlain with our friends at Castleton State University, Hypnotist Brad Clark, The Vermont Comedy Club, a trip to Nightmare New England, live music, and our annual Spring Bash.

OTHER NOTABLE ITEMS THIS YEAR INCLUDE:
The office of Student Affairs welcomed Kathleen Mason (International Student Resource Coordinator) who worked with our international students to sponsor “Turning Points,” a series of presentations made by students about where they're from and how they ended up at Vermont Tech.

The office of Student Affairs welcome Alex Tyrell (Men's head basketball coach and resident director). Alex (who is a Vermont Tech alum) breathed new life into the Knights this year!

With 24 active student clubs on campus, students were given the outlet to expand in their interests while being afforded the opportunities to travel to such cities as Boston, Chicago, Orlando, and Providence. Student Clubs on campus completed 1,124 hours of community service last year too!

IN THE NEWS:
The Many Cultures of Vermont Tech | The Herald

Williston Campus

The Vermont Tech Williston campus had its highest recorded number of residential students on campus since housing has been available to students on site. Williston Hall was at maximum capacity, which allowed the college to continue to work with a community partner, Riverside in the Village, in leasing apartments off campus to provide the most amount of students with college-sponsored housing. Through this partnership, Residential Life accommodated 12 students with this off-campus opportunity just down the road from the Williston campus.

New additions were made to the campus in the area of Student Life in preparation for the coming academic year. The Class of 2016 Senior Gift supported getting more water bottle filling stations around campus, and the 200 building game room was remodeled. The renovated space includes a countertop for students to eat, hang out, or get work done, a refinished billiards table, new furniture, and game systems to help the students unwind from some of their academic work. All this, and the touch of school colors and spirit add a lot to the room and offer a fun space for students to gather and have fun between classes.
Athletics

This summer, the Vermont Tech Athletic Department welcomed a new Director of Athletics, Hilary Linehan. Hilary has been at Vermont Tech for five years managing the SHAPE Facility and student Intramural programs, and is a great fit to help move the Athletic Department forward in a positive direction. She is starting off strong with the implementation of the Knights Booster Club fundraising initiative, and the inaugural kickoff event on October 29th. Hilary has also brought in new soccer coaches on both the Men's and Women's side in order to improve recruiting and retention of student-athletes to ensure they have a positive experience, play at a competitive level and stay with the college through graduation.

The Vermont Tech Athletic Department honored ten athletes for 20 athletic and academic achievement awards at the annual Vermont Tech convocation on April 15th. Three student-athletes were honored to be named to the Yankee Small College Conference All-Conference Team, and four student-athletes 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.

Career Fair

This event, staged as a trade show, brought employers together with students to discuss their companies, products and career opportunities. It was 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, Milton Cat, Global Foundries, and Dealer.com. A total of 102 employers exhibited at the March 5, 2016 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. Vermont Tech will be inviting individual employers to campus this fall for presentations and information sessions in lieu of a fall fair. The College will continue to host a spring career fair.

Men’s soccer player, Phillip Hepburn (Milton, VT), was rewarded as a USCAA All-American Honorable Mention and also was named to the YSCC All Conference Team. Phil’s attitude and playing style make him a stand out student-athlete and a team leader, both on and off the field.

Women’s Cross Country runner, Rebecca Broadbent (North Dighton, MA), made her second YSCC All-Conference Team, and also qualified for the USCAA National Championship race. Rebecca currently holds the women’s Vermont Tech Cross Country Course Record (for time).

Women’s soccer player, Gwen Kearns, (Jeffersonville, VT), was placed on the YSCC All-Conference Team with a stellar season, and also was named as Vermont Tech’s Female Athlete of the Year due to her strong leadership and sportsmanship, both on the field and in the classroom.
PERSONNEL

Promotions and Tenure

PROMOTED TO RANK OF PROFESSOR:

Leslie Hills, Dental Hygiene
Tina Marshall, Dental Hygiene
Rachel Repstad, Mathematics

PROMOTED TO RANK OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE:

Mary K. Hill, Nursing
Jessica Stewart-Riley, Equine Studies

PROMOTED TO RANK OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR WITH TENURE:

Robert Palmer, Automotive Technology

New Full-time Faculty

Karen Cote, Nursing; Christopher Gray, Mechanical Engineering Technology; Catherine Hall, Nursing; Virginia Kittell, Nursing; Josie Kruse, Nursing; Laura Lang, Nursing; Jack Skoda, Computer Information Systems

New Administrative Staff

ADMINISTRATION

Curtis Ostler, Associate Dean of Resource Development; Rachael Hill, Assistant to Dean of Administration; Brenda Flint, Controller (new position with the College); Katrin Helgason, Accounts Payable Supervisor

ADMISSIONS

Schneida Bruny, Administrative Assistant; Mary Cooper, Admissions Counselor

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Nicole Racicot, Academic Support Counselor

FACILITIES

David Race, Jr., Maintenance Technician II; Melodie Williams, Custodian III; Richard Wright, Grounds/Custodial Worker (new position with the College)

NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH

Michelle Stearns, Simulation Program Director (new position with the College); Jeremy Hollinger, Paramedic Clinical Coordinator

SHAPE

Hilary Linehan, Director of Athletics (new position with the College); Ben Wells, SHAPE Facility Manager/Intramurals Coordinator

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Mary Kathryn Juskiewicz, Director of Residence Life; Theo Manazir, Coordinator of Student Affairs; Alex Tyrell, Student Life Associate

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

Jill Chapleau, Veterinary Technician; Shannon Wright, Veterinary Technician

WILLISTON CAMPUS

Peter Casavant, Lab Tech; Ken Bernard, Senior Desktop Support Technician (IT)

Retirements

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Brent Sargent, Dean of Academic Program Development for Regional Campuses
Linda Runnion, Assistant to the Academic Dean

BUSINESS OFFICE

Eileen Donovan, Controller

NURSING

Anne Smeglin, Nursing Site Director, Bennington

PRESIDENT’S OFFICE

Carol Chase, Executive Assistant to the President

Small college. Big outcomes.
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Harold G. Wirtz Master Teacher Award

This year’s recipient of the prestigious Harold G. Wirtz Master Teacher Award was Professor Roger Howes, a faculty member in the Mechanical Engineering Technology department. Colleague and Department Chair, John Kidder, says, “Roger virtually lives in the lab and classroom, preferring to work in the camaraderie of students.... He is a truly remarkable teacher who brings to the classroom a deep and pragmatic understanding of fabrication methods and machine design along with an infectious spirit for hard work and good humor.” One of Roger’s students commented: “The amount of dedication and knowledge that Roger possesses is irreplaceable.” The award was presented to Roger during the Commencement ceremony held on May 22, 2016.

Master of Software Engineering

Vermont Tech is helping to drive growth in the Vermont technology sector with the addition of the Master of Science in Software Engineering in the fall of 2016. Graduates will have the opportunity to be project leads in their field and diving into the top level of their careers right from the start. The program was developed in partnership with Vermont Tech’s computer information technology board of advisors, which includes professionals from the state of Vermont’s top software companies such as MyWebGrocer, Systems and Software, and Green Mountain Software. The two-year Master of Science curriculum is offered at the Williston campus, closest to the Burlington “tech hub” scene.

Post-degree Certificate in Computers/IT

While developed for a spring start, the post-degree certificates in web development, software development, and computer networking will enroll for fall 2016. The incoming class for these programs is comprised of students who are advancing or changing their careers in only two or three semesters. With enrollment in the Advanced Software Development Certificate, students will also complete requirements for admissions to the Master’s in Software Engineering Technology. The certificates are available in Williston, Randolph, and online.

Accreditation News

The Automotive Technology degree program at Vermont Tech received accreditation by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF). To achieve this coveted recognition, the college’s automotive program underwent rigorous evaluation by NATEF, which is a non-profit, independent organization. The program met nationally accepted standards of excellence in instruction, facilities and equipment.

The automotive program has been accredited in the following areas: Master Automobile Service Technology (MAST), which includes Engine Repair, Automatic Transmission and Transaxle, Manual Drive Train and Axles, Suspension and Steering, Brakes, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Heating and Air Conditioning, and Engine Performance.
General Education INT 1005 – Self, Career and Culture

Vermont Tech’s new general education model of two, new “bookend” courses was partially realized this past year as six sections of INT 1005 Self, Career and Culture were launched during the spring semester. The first course is interdisciplinary and investigates the relationships between individual students, their careers and the social environments in which they live.

Intensive course development took place last fall, and faculty teaching the course were from very diverse Vermont Tech programs, ranging from English, Humanities and Social Sciences, to Fire Science, Construction Management, Veterinary Technology and Computer Information Systems. This diversity was beneficial in that it offered a wide variety of faculty perspectives, backgrounds and experiences to draw upon. The only challenge was for faculty with less education in liberal arts and who were more familiar with teaching science or engineering.

Detailed lesson plans were developed for each section of the course. As much as possible, a common experience was presented across all six sections of the class. Some of the topics/activities presented were: nature or nurture, becoming who we are; interviewing a professional in the student’s chosen field; ethics in the workplace; what makes a community; and music’s beneficial effects on the functions in human brains.

Not surprising, student responses to the course were highly mixed. Some students complained that they did not come to Vermont Tech to explore who they are, discuss what it means to have a career or how the arts and humanities enrich the human experience. Other students seemed to enjoy a refreshing opportunity to think about topics outside of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

At the end of the semester, the six teaching faculty and INT 1005 course development mentor/leader, Dean Brent Sargent, gathered for an extensive debrief of what went well, what needs improvement and what should be deleted from the course. It will be very interesting to see how the course matures and continuously improves over time.

One big challenge is that three of the six faculty who taught the course last spring will be on sabbatical in the second semester. Another faculty member will not teach the course due to her heavy course and student load in her department. Professional development of a new cadre of faculty to teach “Self, Career and Culture” will be challenging, but it could also help improve the course as more and more teachers become involved.

Meanwhile, course development of Bookend II will start in earnest as it needs to be ready for the 2017-18 academic year.
Commencements

On Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, Vermont Tech celebrated the college’s 150th annual commencement ceremony. In a rare step for the college, the commencement speaker, Ken Squier, was honored with an honorary Doctorate in Applied Science from Vermont Tech. A preeminent NASCAR broadcaster for two decades, Squier’s role as the owner of the Radio Vermont Group and founder of Barre’s Thunder Road International Speedbowl define him as a Vermont icon. At three different ceremonies through the weekend, the college conferred more than 472 degrees. Of those graduating, 403 (85%) were Vermonters. The Nursing Department, which delivers its program in multiple locations around the state, featured the largest number of graduates. One hundred fifty-three (153) nursing students received degrees on Saturday. In addition, the college graduated its first classes in the Professional Pilot and Renewable Energy bachelor’s degree programs.

Later in June, graduation ceremonies were held in each region of the statewide nursing program for Practical Nursing graduates. In five ceremonies over three days in all corners of Vermont, one hundred thirty-five (135) nursing students were awarded their certificates.
Continuing Education & Workforce Development

Vermont Tech’s Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CEWD) continues to provide accessible, career-focused education for lifelong success. In the 2016 fiscal year, CEWD provided training to over 3,000 individuals statewide. This is an increase of approximately 500 individuals over the previous year.

The college’s youngest students are those in enrolled in dual and concurrent courses. These high-school-aged students earn college credit at their home high schools, technical centers, or at a Vermont Tech campus. The addition of a dedicated part-time employee resulted in an increase in dual enrollment students and partner high school sites to 14 statewide. Over the year, 423 students gained exposure to the rigor and hands-on learning of a Vermont Tech education. New programs offered this year included courses in Diversified Agriculture in partnership with Youth Build and Green Mountain Technical Center. These efforts create a natural progression to Vermont Tech degree programs.

In addition to providing courses to high school students, CEWD is currently training and certifying 47 technical center teachers through the Career and Technical Center Education Program (CTCEP). This program was fully endorsed by the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators, allowing the high quality education of career and technical education teachers to continue at Vermont Tech until 2023.

Vermont Tech continued its long standing and successful Electrical and Plumbing Apprenticeship in partnership with the Vermont Department of Labor across eleven distance learning sites. This past year, over 500 individuals took part in this statewide training. The development and maintenance of the distance learning sites is vital to this program, ensuring that the 529 apprentices and their employers in all areas of the state are served.

CEWD’s corporate training provides flexible delivery options to our employer partners in both open-enrollment and customized, on-site options. Currently, CEWD’s signature practical, hands-on, innovative training is available in the areas of manufacturing, industrial maintenance, leadership, and professional development. CEWD served nearly 100 students statewide through credit-bearing manufacturing training and approximately 300 took part in corporate-sponsored training, customized to their company’s vision, goals and team.

CEWD administers Vermont Tech’s summer session, which served 150 students with 15 different courses offered statewide. This collaborative effort with Vermont Tech’s faculty generated over $200,000 in revenue to the college.

Vermont Tech’s CEWD has been highly successful in obtaining grants to support and expand the college’s facilities and instruction. In Fiscal Year 2016, CEWD was awarded the following in state and federal grants:

- **$23,140** Vermont Department of Economic Development’s Vermont Training Program grant for the Industrial Maintenance Certificate program based in Franklin County. This certificate was developed in partnership with the Franklin-Grand Isle Workforce Investment Board (FGIWIB), the Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation (FCIDC) and local Franklin County manufacturing companies.

- **$75,000** Vermont Department of Labor grant for the expansion of its Solar Installers Certification Program. The grant will allow the nationally certified program to be offered statewide at a greatly reduced cost.

- **$4,000,000** U.S. Department of Labor Strengthening Working Families grant for developing a pathways for technical training in the manufacturing sectors along with social services, in collaboration with CCV. (See the Special Comments/Plans section for more details).

- **$167,445** national Northern Borders Regional Commission grant to the Community College of Vermont in partnership with Vermont Tech for an advanced manufacturing lab in Franklin County and to develop area partnerships between colleges, employers and economic development organizations 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.

- **$100,000** Vermont Department of Economic Development Vermont Training Program grant for the Paramedicine Certificate program.
Institute for Applied Agriculture and Food Systems

In the past year the Institute for Applied Agriculture and Food Systems gained momentum and recognition for the hands-on, practical delivery of courses. Between August 2015 and the time of the grant closeout, which started April 1, 2016, 28 courses ran on topics from mushroom gathering and MIG welding, cheese and yogurt production, meat cutting and greenhouse growing, to natural dyeing and viticulture.

These courses were all developed and administered by the agricultural specialists that comprised the Institute for Applied Agriculture and Food Systems team. The team consisted of Chris Dutton, the director, Rachel Arsenault, project manager, and Molly Willard, project manager. The team worked with industry specialists to develop the course curricula, backed the content of each course with science, hired instructors with educational credentials and field experience, and included hands-on components for each course. In the final year, the team fine-tuned marketing for the courses, and as a result, enrollment and successful course starts increased from previous years.

For the past six months the team has been sequestered to grant closeout activity only – no course delivery or marketing is allowed during grant close-out. The delivery of Ag Institute courses and management has been turned over to Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CEWD) as the Ag team continues to work strictly on grant closeout.

During this period, the following courses ran successfully: Yogurt Production, Distilling and Natural Dyeing. The grant closeout period ends September 30th. Upon grant completion, a project manager will work with CEWD to sustain the momentum created by the Ag Institute team.

Overall the Institute ran 36 courses and served 132 individuals.

Most participants sought to increase their knowledge and skills in a specific field with the aim to improve a current small business or start a new business.
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:

**Friends of Sonny Miller Scholarship**
This endowment scholarship was created as a memorial to Sonny Miller who spent his life in service to the farming community of Vermont, New England and across the country. The scholarship will serve Vermont students pursuing a future in agriculture through the degree programs at Vermont Tech.

**Randolph Union Community Scholarship Match**
This partnership was designed to further supplement local seniors graduating from RUHS and planning to attend a Vermont State College. To be eligible, students need to be a senior at RUHS and have a demonstrated financial need. Students who attend Vermont Tech and receive a Randolph Union Community Scholarship will be given a 25% match of funds up to $2500 in Institutional funds from Vermont Tech.

**Maine Drilling and Blasting**
Maine Drilling and Blasting, beginning with FY16, established an annual $1,000 scholarship for the next five years to provide financial assistance to students who are enrolled full-time and majoring in civil engineering technology or construction management. The scholarship is based on both merit and need. MD&B is a recognized leader in the industry and long-term contributor to local communities it serves, offering drilling and blasting services to the construction and quarry markets along with other specialty services throughout the Northeastern United States.

**Warren E. Preston Dairy Management Scholarship**
This endowment scholarship was established for the purpose of supporting Dairy Farm Management students at Vermont Tech. With the dissolution of the Vermont Agricultural Museum in Randolph Center, in memory of its founder, Warren E. Preston, this endowment was created to assist in continuing the education of future Vermont farmers. Recipients of the scholarship must be a Bethel, Brantree, Brookfield, Randolph, Royalton, South Royalton or Williamstown resident and is available to both degree and non-degree students associated with the Dairy Farm Management Program.

**ADDITIONAL DONATIONS INCLUDE:**
- Blittersdorf Family Foundation $40,000
- People’s United Bank $25,000
- Northfield Savings Bank $25,000
- Mary Evslin $20,000
- Vermont Agricultural Museum $15,432
- AAA of Northern New England $15,000 (to Endowment)
Facilities

Mechanical and Electrical Lab Matching Fund & State Appropriation

Following the initial investment from the State’s capital budget for Phase I of the mechanical and electrical lab renovations, President Dan Smith set a path toward raising the $500,000 matching fund stipulated to receive the second $500,000 investment in the FY2017 capital budget. Through major donors, individual contributors and foundation support, the college was successful in meeting its matching fund requirements and was awarded the second year of capital appropriation.

The privately-raised and public-appropriation investments will support Phase II of Vermont Tech’s initiatives, including the installation of state-of-the-art 3D printers and scanners to teach the principles of design, reverse engineering and additive manufacturing, as well as the addition of machine tooling and material processing labs in support of advanced manufacturing. The electrical engineering program will benefit from more advanced system applications like controls and robotics.

IN THE NEWS:

People’s United Bank Supports Vermont Manufacturing Through Matching Grant to Vermont Tech | vtdigger.org

Northfield Bank Donates to VTC | Rutland Herald

Big Bertha DOE Report

The anaerobic digester at Vermont Tech, “Big Bertha,” is operating at full capacity and successfully putting electricity onto the grid. With a carefully formulated diet of cow manure and organic matter from Vermont farms and brewery waste from the Alchemist and Long Trail Brewing Co., the digester is helping Vermont reach its ambitious goals of 90% renewable energy by 2050. In addition, as Vermont’s Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) ramps up to ban food and organic waste from landfills by 2020, Vermont Tech and its food waste transportation partners will become integral to help divert organic waste from landfills, prevent the flow of excess nutrients to Lake Champlain and other watersheds, and support agriculture and increased local food production. Vermont Tech and project partner Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund published the Vermont Tech Community Anaerobic Digester Report, a collection of digester manuals and management plans, timeline and process, and data collection systems so colleges and municipalities across the country can replicate the community scale anaerobic digester model.
Farming at Vermont Tech

Vermont Tech is committed to maintaining its support for Vermont agriculture and the dairy industry. To that end, the college developed a public, private and not-for-profit partnership to operate the Norwich Farm facility. Norwich Farm Creamery (NFC) is the new micro-dairy that launched in May 2016 by Vermont cheese-making veteran, Chris Gray. This new state-of-the-art creamery will serve as an experiential learning center for students starting with the fall 2016 semester and a production facility for NFC on an ongoing basis. NFC will produce bottled milk, yogurt, kefir, fresh cheeses, butter, and ice cream, from the herd of grass-fed cows located on the 350-acre conserved farmstead. The herd itself is owned and managed by a second private partner, Josh Swift. Josh Swift’s family operated the same farm more than a generation ago. The third partner is the Upper Valley Land Trust. Collectively, these partners are working together to reach their common goals: providing facilities to incubate a startup business, successful development of a new dairy herd, conservation of open space in the Upper Valley and the development of a unique learning environment for students to work alongside faculty and professionals in the field of food and farms.

In establishing the Norwich Farm facility as an educational dairy hub, Vermont Tech is now positioned to explore strategic options for its farm infrastructure and assets in Randolph Center, including the Water Street Dairy Farm, the market garden, 2,000 maple taps, an eight-acre apple orchard, and several hundred acres of crop and pasture land.

There is a unique opportunity to explore public-private and not-for-profit partnerships for a diverse array of potential operations, through which students see broader experiential learning opportunities alongside owners and professionals.

To adapt the college’s infrastructure and organization to support an array of diversified operations in Randolph Center, the college hopes to convene a team of organizations and individuals to advise the college, develop a plan and support the transition, with the objective of having operational partners in place on the college’s Randolph Center Farm by September 2017.

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, Mary Jeanne Taylor, worked with and provided support for returning groups, Girl’s State, Governor’s Institute, Rosie’s Girls, and Vermont Voltage Soccer Camp. In addition, the office hosted professional events, a large variety of one-day conferences, 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 additional revenue for the college.
Hartness Library

Searching for resources in Hartness Library is now easier with the migration to a discovery service last fall. The discovery service provides a single “Search Hartness” box to discover all Library resources – books, eBooks, journals, newspapers, streamed videos and more, from one search. **Search Hartness provides a more Google-like experience which students and faculty now expect when searching for information.** The discovery service from Ebsco includes link resolver and publication finder software to replace the open source CUFTS/GODOT.

Hartness expanded its eBook collection this year from **25,000 titles to over 175,000** with a subscription to Ebsco's Academic and University Press eBook collections. These unlimited access eBooks cover subjects across the academic programs. Because these eBooks allow unlimited user access, they are **easily shared and integrated into courses** by posting in Moodle classes.

In preparation for the College's 150th celebrations in the coming academic year, Hartness launched the **Hartness Library Archives Guide** featuring a selection of digital and audio resources housed in the Hartness Library Archives. The page features historical background, photographs and documents, providing 150 years of college history from its origins as Orange County Grammar School, Randolph State Normal School, Vermont School of Agriculture, and Vermont Agricultural and Technological Institute to the present Vermont Tech. Hartness archives conducted several oral history projects this year featuring Vermont Tech students interviewing long-time staff and faculty and, oral histories with alumni of the VSA Class of 1946. These are also available for listening from the Hartness Library Archives guide.
The Library’s annual report details all the major initiatives and usage statistics for 2015. The Hartness team uses these statistics and website metrics each year to assess how library services and resources are meeting the needs of the College communities.

Telepresence

The telepresence setups are off and running with very few problems. The Nursing, Paramedicine, Advanced Manufacturing and Apprenticeship programs are still the heaviest users of the systems, but more and more classes and meetings are using these setups to increase accessibility.

Since last fall, additional setups have been added at the Williston Campus, at Lyndon State College and at the CCV St. Albans academic center. The Brattleboro setup was moved to a larger room that will accommodate more students per class. Throughout the upcoming fall semester, there will be evaluations of tweaks and upgrades to the systems that will make them easier to use and accessible to an even wider range of users.

Information Technology

Ken Bernard has joined the IT staff as lead desktop support at the Williston campus. Ken filled the position left vacant by Rob Frederickson, who transitioned to Colorado for work and family. Ken was a student who graduated from the IT program last spring who was too good to let go. He hit the ground running, working with the rest of our desktop support staff to upgrade all of the Williston classrooms. They are now easier to use, better support a “bring your own device” (BYOD) strategy for instructors, and will be a model for future upgrades around the state.
PUBLIC SERVICE/ SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Bridge Building 2.0

At the second annual Bridge Building Competition hosted at the Vermont Tech Randolph Center campus on April 1, 2016, 146 students had all their hard work crushed. Their Popsicle bridges crushed, that is. The 16 middle school teams and 21 high school teams competed in the categories of aesthetics and design originality, presentation, load-carrying capacity, strength-to-weight ratio and predicted failure point. Prizes were awarded to the first, second, and third place winners for the middle school and high school age groups. Additional prizes were awarded for aesthetics, presentation, bridge design and team spirit. The event was sponsored by VTrans, who also provided judges for the competition.

The overall winners in the Middle School age group were the Rutland Area Homeschoolers. Their team consisted of engineers Emilia McCalla, Maxwell McCalla, Griffin Kingsbauer and Madison Kingsbauer. The second and third place teams in the Middle School group were from the Woodstock Elementary School and Otter Valley Union, respectively.

The winners in the High School age group included a tie for first place. The Hartford High School team of engineers, Karen Cross, Khant Thu, Connor Chandler and Jake Farewell tied with the Randolph Union High School team of engineers, Rafe Sauer, Tori Palmer, Nichole Huntley, and Shay Young. The second and third place teams were both from St. Johnsbury Academy. The two first-place teams’ engineers all won $2,000 scholarships to Vermont Tech, should they choose to apply. The second and third place winners all took home scholarships to Vermont Tech for $1,500 and $1,000 respectively. Two scholarship winners from the Bridge Building competition will be starting at Vermont Tech as undergraduates in the fall.

Dental Therapist Practitioner Bill Passes

The Vermont legislature passed a bill in May to license a new healthcare practitioner in the state, Dental Therapist. The mid-level provider position would be licensed to provide services like hygiene and preventative care, like drilling and filling of teeth. The new practitioner is designed to increase care in Vermont as dentists hire therapists to their practices to provide care to more Medicare patients. Vermont Tech will provide the education and clinical practice for students seeking to meet the educational degree requirements for a dental therapist. The college will be the only educational provider in the state once the program comes online. The final curriculum will have to be approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, which will take about a year and a half. Vermont is the fourth state in the nation to approve dental therapy practitioner licensure.

IN THE NEWS:
Randolph, Rutland and Hartford Schools Win 2nd Annual Vermont Tech Bridge Building Competition | vtc.edu

IN THE NEWS:
Could Dental Therapists Help Expand Access in Vermont? | WCAX
VT Tech Lays Groundwork for Dental Therapy Program mychamplainvalley.com
Vermont Tech held its first week-long Coder Camp for middle school aged children. Launching Coder Camp was a partnership between the Computer and Information Systems Department and the Continuing Education and Workforce Development Office. The camp brought 20 children aged 9-14 to Vermont Tech’s Williston campus to learn about software development. Campers worked with Vermont Tech faculty and student counselors using the SCRATCH language to develop workable applications. These applications were presented to parents at the end of the week. The camp experience included a strong educational components, a field trip to Dealer.com, physical activities that reinforced logic and teambuilding, and some good old fashioned fun.

**Vermont Tech hopes of offer additional Coder Camp sections for the 2017 summer.** The faculty are also looking to develop a Coder Camp specifically for girls.

The 2016 Aerocamp consisted of 16 young aviators who took to the skies for one action-packed week of flying from July 25-29. Aerocampers got actual flight time in three different aircraft. They **flew Cessnas** from Burlington Airport, **soared in gliders** over the Green Mountains from Sugarbush, and then headed to Grand Isle to **fly seaplanes** over beautiful Lake Champlain. When they weren’t in the skies over Vermont they were immersed in STEM; practicing navigation, radio procedures, and learning basic aerodynamics. They were exposed to many different aviation careers with on-site visits to Burlington Airport Operations, the Air Traffic Control Tower, and the Vermont Air Guard. They also participated in hands-on workshops including a session with Burlington Technical Center as aircraft mechanics doing riveting and safety wiring on actual jet engines. Aerocamp was an enormous success due to **six of the college’s professional pilot students and recent graduates** who were counselors and flight instructors in the camp. They flew with all the campers and throughout the week they shared their passion for aviation, empowering sixteen young people to fully explore a career as a commercial airline pilot.

Aerocamp was assisted by a partial grant from Vermont Aviation, Department of Transportation, and the generous support of our Professional Pilot Program Partner, Vermont Flight Academy. Aerocamp’s base of operation was provided by Burlington Technical Center.
SPECIAL COMMENTS PLANS

Gender Equity Project

At a press conference on February 3, 2016, Vermont Tech announced their initiative to tackle workforce development, economic development and gender equity by significantly increasing participation rates among women in several historically male-dominated fields. By the end of the project term, Vermont Tech should realize an increase of female participation in these programs from 10% to 24%. The momentum of such growth and lessons learned from the activities of the project’s years should yield even greater participation rates beyond 2018.

As an extension of its partnership on programs like the annual Women Can Do! conference and Rosie’s Girls residential camps, Vermont Tech is collaborating with Vermont Works for Women to support the college in reaching their enrollment goals.

In the coming year, the project team will address recruitment, retention and career placement to improve participation rates among women. Mentorship will overlay each of these activities. The typical applied-learning projects of the college curriculum will focus on issues like climate change, water quality, or software privacy to demonstrate how science and engineering are at the heart of solving the problems society faces. The college will work closely with Vermont Works for Women to build bridges between their programs and college enrollment, as well as share outreach efforts to area high schools and technical centers. The group will continue to collaborate on successful programs like the Women Can Do! Conference and the Rosie’s Girls residential camps with follow-on mentorships.

By the end of the project term, Vermont Tech should realize an increase of female participation in these programs from 10% to 24%.
CEWD’s $4M U.S. DOL Grant

The largest grant awarded to Vermont Tech in recent years was awarded to CEWD by the U.S. Department of Labor this summer. In collaboration with the Community College of Vermont (CCV) and a number of statewide partners, CEWD was awarded a $4M Strengthening Working Families Grant. This grant will focus on developing a pathway of technical trainings for the manufacturing sectors along with the social services that will break down barriers for training and employment for working families in Vermont. The goal is to allow unemployed and underemployed individuals technical training and support to gain access to the above average wages and benefits provided by manufacturing companies across the state. This initiative will allow Vermont Tech to partner with organizations from across the state, develop two new flexible and innovative apprenticeship models, make a major investment in the manufacturing lab at the Williston campus, and provide for mobile lab services to students statewide.

Institutional Priorities

In January of 2016, President Smith commissioned a steering committee for a nine-month process to articulate Vermont Tech’s strategic priorities. The committee’s charge was to coordinate opportunities for input from the college community and think creatively about the role this institution can play for our various stakeholders, including our employees, communities, our students, the state of Vermont and the industries to which we are (or should be) connected.

In its work in the spring and summer of 2016, the committee received feedback from 337 students and over 120 faculty and staff and offered opportunities for all employees at all locations to provide their views on mission and priorities.

The committee completed secondary research, performed focus groups and conducted surveys with Vermont Tech students, faculty and staff. Based on these findings, the steering committee submitted a draft report to the president in July 2016 and a proposed implementation plan in August. The institutional priorities project will move forward under the direction of Interim President Moulton.

CCV Alliances

As the Vermont State College systems continues to provide clear pathways to degrees and certificate for more Vermont students while achieving operational savings, alliances between sister colleges Vermont Tech and the Community College of Vermont are growing and new pathways are being forged. This year, Presidents Smith and Judy charged their staff to create action plans by July 1 through collaborative working groups. Their initiatives included:

- Program Alignment
- Workforce Development and Training
- Dual Admission, Co-enrollment and Active Second
- Distance Education

Additional areas of inquiry included residential options, veterans’ services, general education and funding mechanisms, Norwich Farm and Creamery, joint registrar and transfer collaboration, and creating Chittenden County connections. The working groups were chaired by peers with committee members representing each institution. The work has been, at times, challenging to existing systems but worthy of the effort to meet the educational and operational goals.
Phil petty
Dean of Academic Affairs

Executive Assistant (Vacant)

Rosemary Dole
Director of Academic Affairs

Susan Polen
Director Center for Academic Success, TRIO

Cynthia Martinelli
Associate Dean of Nursing Education

Sarah Levin
Registrar

Academic Scheduling

VAST

Laboratory Technicians

Perkins Grant

New Student Orientation

TRIO

Academic Departments

Faculty

Allied Health

Ellen Griner
Director of Dental Hygiene Education

Eve Tolar
Director of Respiratory Therapy Education