

STRATEGIC PLAN: Secondary Education Initiatives

Small Preamble-

The Vermont State Colleges, in support of the 70x2025vt initiative has agreed to strive towards the goal of having 70 percent of Vermont's working age adults having completed an Associate's Degree or higher, or a credential of value by the year 2025. (VSC, n.d.)

What this means is that when we look at '70x2025vt along with 'The Flexible Pathways Initiative', we of Vermont Tech already have the bones of a solid strategic plan for our Secondary Education Initiatives, including VAST.

OUR GOAL:

We of Vermont Technical College's Administration, in partnership with, and through supporting legislation by, the State of Vermont, strive to create clear pathways for Vermont Students to succeed in the attainment of, at least, an Associate's Degree or a Credential of Value. (VSC, n.d.) (AOE, n.d.)

-We will support enrollment within Vermont Tech by working in collaboration with our 50+ Dual/Concurrent Enrollment partners, VAST student population and sister schools within the VSC, to create clear pathways towards the completion of our programs and the attainment of a higher degree or credential at VTC.

-Using a tiered and incremental approach, we will grow our outreach by furthering the attendance of the Director of Vast at college and career fairs, events and panels. The Director with the support of Enrollment and Admissions will identify target areas where the population lends itself well to increased collaboration.

-Within one year: we will have, through collaborations with Schools and their Personalized Learning Plans, set up a clear progressive, and flexible, pathway toward our major programs and degrees. This will help our partners in Secondary Education Institutions fit Vermont Tech into a student's plan.

-Within two years: we will grow our application rate of Vermont Tech Dual Enrollment students from almost 10% to 12-15% with the secondary goal of at least 5% of said students depositing and matriculating into either a Certificate or Degree program at Vermont Tech.

-Within three years: we will initiate a formalized 'Commuter Campus' for VAST and DE students in the Williston area. Working with the Dean of Williston campus and the CAS, we will provide a more inclusive and supportive atmosphere for these students as they represent one of the few areas of the state where the Secondary Education student population is actually growing or remaining steady.

-Within five years: we will have a formalized, progressive pathway set up that can clearly identify the many paths a Vermont Student has to achieve a Higher Degree or Credential at Vermont Tech. Thereby, we will be a productive and supportive party to the VSC's general goals, as well as creating strong collaborative partnerships whereby we can promote Vermont Tech, while at the same time, supporting the local communities from which we thrive.

Desired Outcome, in Summary:

In summary, our desired outcome through the continued and growing role of Secondary Education Initiatives and VAST, is to become a major support to guiding students towards the goal of <http://70x2025vt.org/> and thereby proving ourselves a worthy partner and destination for our Schools and CTEs across the State. We believe that being such a valuable partner and support, we will increase enrollment and awareness of Vermont Tech and all we have to offer.

Core Sources/Information:

“The Flexible Pathways Initiative, [created by Act 77 of 2013](#) and found in statute under [16 V.S.A. § 941](#), encourages and supports the creativity of school districts as they develop and expand high-quality educational experiences that are an integral part of secondary education in the evolving 21st-century classroom. Flexible pathways also promote opportunities for Vermont students to achieve postsecondary readiness through high-quality educational experiences that acknowledge individual goals, learning styles, and abilities; and increase the rates of secondary school completion and postsecondary continuation in Vermont. Flexible Pathways provides for:

- Expansion of the existing statewide [Dual Enrollment Program](#)
- Expansion of the [Early College Program](#)
- Increased access to [work-based learning](#)
- Increased virtual/blended learning opportunities
- Increased access to [Career and Technical Education](#)
- Implementation of [Personalized Learning](#)” (AOE, n.d.)

“With support of the Governor and leadership of the PreK-16 Council, VSAC, the Vermont State Colleges, and UVM, in July 2015 Vermont received a Lumina Foundation State Policy Academy grant. A Working Group of diverse stakeholders was formed to review and further develop postsecondary attainment goals and policies for the state.

By the year 2025, seventy percent (70%) of Vermont's working age adults will possess a post-secondary degree or credential of value*.

After reviewing data on educational achievement gaps, employment, and economic development, the Working Group proposed a new goal for post-secondary educational attainment. This new goal replaces Vermont's original goal of 60% attainment by 2020 articulated in Act 133 of 2010. The new goal reflects our sense of urgency in addressing immediate workforce and economic development needs for more Vermonters with post-high school education and inclusivity in supporting a broad range of pathways to post-secondary degrees and credentials for all Vermonters, including working-age adults and high school students from families without prior college-going experience.

As an outcome of the policy academy, a new 70x2025vt.org Partnership is being formed to guide Vermont's progress towards the 70% goal. The Vermont State Colleges System is committed to supporting Vermont's new 70% attainment goal and the 70x2025vt.org Partnership.

*A credential that indicates completion of a post-secondary academic or professional program that documents a set of skills or experiences as part of a career pathway that leads to employment and/or further educational opportunities." (VSC, n.d.)