



January 8, 2016

To: Vermont State Legislature/Early College Coordinator, Agency of Education

From: Trevor Barski

Associate Director of Admissions

Early College/Dual Enrollment Coordinator

Lyndon State College

To whom it may concern;

Overview:

This is Lyndon's second year of participation in the Vermont Early College Program. In our first year, we had nine applicants, with eight participating in the program, from five separate high schools. After the first semester, we had one student drop out of the program, due to the long commute from Newport, VT. Of the seven students who completed the program the first year, three matriculated for the fall of 2015.

For the current academic year, we had 12 applicants, with five participants, from three separate high schools. Matriculation forms have been sent to all five participants.

We are currently taking applications for the 2016/2017 academic year.

History:

We entered into the program with extreme caution, as we were skeptical of the outcome. Additionally, because Act 77 didn't answer many questions that arose, we decided to proceed slowly as we put our policies in place. Therefore, in the first two years of the program, we did very little community outreach.

Additionally, we had a large number of inquiries from students who attended Lyndon Institute and St. Johnsbury Academy. They were our closest neighbors, by far, and we anticipated large numbers of local students participating in the program. Unfortunately, both schools decided not to participate in the program, so we felt that was a significant contributor to our low numbers for the first two years.

Student Performance

With the exception of only one student, our Early College students, for both years, have been overwhelmingly successful. Professors have reported students to be quiet, attentive, respectful, and overall model students. This year's cohort had an average first semester GPA of 3.46.

Moving Forward:

With the coming academic year we have stepped up our outreach with mailings and high school visits. We also plan on running advertisements in the local newspapers. It was our belief, simply relying on high schools to communicate to their respective students the program was available wasn't adequate. We feel it is necessary to get information directly to students and parents. We have also added a residential component this year, in an effort to increase access.

Sincerely,

Trevor Barski



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