

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Lt. Governor Phil Scott Issues Statement on Johnson, Lyndon State Colleges Administrative Merger**

Lt. Governor Phil Scott today issued the following statement on the plan to merge the administrations of Johnson State College and Lyndon State College:

“I'm hopeful that the plan to merge administration of two of Vermont's state colleges is another step toward strengthening both institutions for students, the Northeast Kingdom and the future of our entire higher education system. These institutions are very important to the regional economy and to the Northeast Kingdom in particular; their continued health and success must remain a priority. It's no secret that our schools are seeing declining enrollment, which means we have to find smart ways to achieve efficiencies and support innovative programs that appeal to potential students. I'm happy to see the board and administration of the Vermont State Colleges taking additional steps to improve our state college system. Providing high-quality, affordable higher education for students is essential to strengthening Vermont's economy.”

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