

**Theresa Utton**

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**Subject:** FW: Support for preserving/expanding appropriations for the Vermont State Colleges

**From:** Sabol, Scott A. []

**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2015 4:00 PM

**To:** Theresa Utton

**Subject:** Support for preserving/expanding appropriations for the Vermont State Colleges

I am a professor at Vermont Technical College, and I am writing to urge support for preserving, and I'd prefer *expanding*, legislative appropriations to the Vermont State Colleges. I realize that the budget deficit for the state is a concern. I believe that our state budget problems will be relieved if we can have more college-educated Vermonters working in fields that create income for the graduates (and thus tax revenue for the state). Specifically, at Vermont Tech, we focus on career-oriented education that often results in wealth-producing careers in fields such as engineering, construction, manufacturing, and business.

My college, and I'm sure the other state colleges, have pared expenses, improved efficiencies, and looked at revenue enhancements. The reality is that we are about the 49<sup>th</sup>-lowest state higher education system already when it comes to state funding. We try to limit tuition growth, but to offer quality education in technical fields, it takes some money. I personally would like to see priorities for spending focus on areas that Vermont lags on (e.g., higher education) and maybe determine whether those areas should be at a minimum held harmless, and at best improved, in the current funding cycle. This may have to be at the cost of some areas where Vermont ranks extremely high in funding levels compared to other states, yet I'd hate to see it considered a zero-sum game. *An investment in the Vermont State Colleges is an investment in wealth creation in the state that pays back royalties in the form of future tax revenue.*

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

With kindest regards,  
Scott A. Sabol  
(Northfield)

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