



An Investment in VIT is an Investment in Working Vermonters





VIT'S MISSION:

To support the economic health and development of the State and its citizens by providing the technical infrastructure and operational expertise necessary to deliver education, training and information equally to all areas of Vermont.

VIT's CLASSROOM LOCATIONS



- HIGH SCHOOL
- COLLEGE
- TECH CENTER
- OTHER



VIT is the experienced distance learning service in Vermont, delivering high quality education and training programs to more than **350,000 Vermonters in the past 20+ years.**





Current Situation

The Governor's budget recommends
\$0 in FY 16 for VIT.

If funding is not restored, VIT will cease
to exist beginning July 1, 2015



Impact of Elimination

If the State eliminates VIT's funding...

- Hundreds of program providers will be forced to identify alternate delivery methods with little or no lead time.
- Thousands of Vermonters will be denied access to workforce training.
- VIT's 9 full-time and 35 part-time staff members will be unemployed.
- Vermont will lose a valuable resource, which if leveraged, could help Vermont government, education and nonprofit organizations work more efficiently.



FY 2016 Reservations

This early in 2015, VIT already has signed contracts for the following 13 clients for FY 2016:

IBEW Local 2326

IBEW Local 300

US Bankruptcy Court

UVM Area Health Education Center Program

VT Dental Society Continuing Education

VT Department of Corrections

VT Agency of Human Services

VT Licensed Plumbers Association

VT Chapter of American Physical Therapy Association

Vermont Tech Associates Degree in Nursing

Vermont Tech Licensed Practical Nursing Program

Vermont Tech Respiratory Therapy Degree Program

Vermont Tech Math Program



Impact of Elimination



July 1, these customers will be cut off with no viable alternative:

UVM AHEC, nurses training, 247 students
IBEW Union, member training, 275 members
Mount Anthony Union HS, calculus, 27 students
VT Assn of Blind & Visually Impaired, education
VT Bankruptcy Court, monthly proceedings
VT Tech, Respiratory Therapy Degree Program
UVM, Library Media Degree Program
Vermont Public Service Department, hearings
UVM Master Gardener, 200 participants
The Francis Foundation, client consultations
VT Dept. of Corrections, family visitations
...and more



Impact of Elimination

VIT hosts degree programs, continuing education classes, professional training & certification programs, dual enrollment classes and more.

VIT Enables Vermonters to expand their skills, building a better workforce through education.



Skype

VIT

Group Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals & small groups only • Average group size: under 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals + small groups + large groups • Average group size: 15-30
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single camera, single microphone • Content + sometimes audio + sometimes video • Single video mode 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple cameras, many microphones • Content + audio + video • Multiple video modes • Document Camera • Audience response system • System partition for group work • Simultaneous live streaming
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer quality • Intermittent reliability • No dedicated bandwidth • Low success rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business quality • Proven, consistent reliability • Dedicated bandwidth • High success rate
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NONE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert technical support • Administrative program support • Presenter/teacher training
Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal device to personal device • Max of 10 connections on Skype 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rooms + personal devices • Max of 120 connections



Skype v. VIT

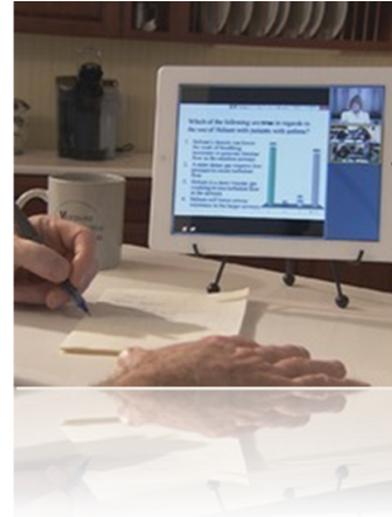
The majority of programming that takes place over VIT is **large group** education and workforce development coursework. Web based services like Skype cannot replace VIT for these purposes.

87% of VIT clients reported that there is NO alternate technology service equal to VIT.

No cheaper technology exists that can replace VIT for the vast majority of its customers.



Proven Success



VIT's distance learning model builds learning communities and increases student access.

**Clients have proven success in distance learning.
Some examples...**



VERMONT TECH

Nursing Degree Programs

Over the past 17 years, Vermont Tech's Associates Degree in Nursing (ADN) and Practical Nursing (LPN) programs have educated more than 3,000 students through VIT.

ADN and LPN students who participated in the program over VIT scored higher than traditional classroom students on the NCLEX certification exams.

This year, Vermont Tech is educating 107 students in the Associates Degree in Nursing program and 55 students in the Licensed Practical Nursing program.



Vermont Plumbers Training

Over 58% of plumbing licensees receive their credit hours via courses offered through VIT. Over the past 12 years, the Vermont Licensed Plumbers Association logged 25,664 hours on the VIT system and trained over 6,416 people.

This year, VLPA is training 517 plumbers using VIT's services.

“Honestly, I shudder to think of how much more difficult and expensive it would be for Licensed Plumbers to get their continuing education without VIT.” –Brad Talbott, Executive Director, VLPA



The University of Vermont

UVM Extension Service

The University of Vermont's Extension Service has used VIT's distance learning system for over 16 years to deliver a wide variety of programming including nursing, engineering, master gardening, library media studies and more. In total they served close to 6,000 participants.

UVM AHEC received the J. Ward Stackpole, MD Award in recognition of *"significant and sustained contributions to school health and its importance in ensuring the academic success of students in Vermont,"* for its role in the VDH-AHEC Grand Rounds for School Nurses continuing education program offered over VIT.



Vermont Department of Labor Apprenticeship Programs

VDOL offers all 4 levels of both the plumbing and electrical apprenticeship programs over VIT.

- Using 15 classrooms
- Graduated 150 students
- Training 132 students this year!

The right solution for these students.



Vermont Department of Corrections

Visitations with Vermont inmates housed in Kentucky & Arizona.

Giving family members access to loved ones.

Could not be done via Skype due to security.



Environmental Impact

In an average year, use of VIT's services saves
Vermonters & Vermont:

4,872,696 miles

90,480 hours

190 tons of air pollution

2,500 tons of greenhouse gases

\$4,308,623



Vermont's Investment in VIT

The state of Vermont has invested millions in the VIT infrastructure over the past 20+ years. The end result is a highly reliable, successful distance learning system.

Eliminating the system now, would severely limit the state's return on investment and could ultimately cost the state more developing alternatives.



FY 16 Funding Request

Full Funding

The sectors that need VIT most are the ones that can least afford it due to increasing budget pressures.

In a recent survey, VIT polled 64 of its most active clients.

42 of 64 responded

59% reported that the #1 obstacle to higher utilization is cost

**69% reported that they would use VIT more
if there were NO USER FEES**



The VIT Team

Tara Lidstone, M.A.Ed., Executive Director

John Sheets, C.E., NIULPE, Director of Technical Operations

Fred Miller, M.A.Ed., Regional Manager

Shannon Devereux, M.A.Ed., Regional Manager

Michelle Parent, B.A.Ed., Program & Outreach Coordinator

Steve Schouten, Regional Manager

Jim Degan, Head Technician

Bruce Amsden, Managing Technician

Katrin Helgason, Scheduling & Business Operations Coordinator

+35 part-time technicians who support programming,
presenters and participants



The VIT Coordinating Council

Barbara Grimes, Chair, General Manager, Retired, Burlington Electric Dept.

Norbie Lavigne, Plant Manager, Retired, IBM

John Sayles, CEO, Vermont Foodbank

Richard Smith, President, Vermont Captive Insurance Association

Kathleen Keenan, State Representative

Jeanette White, State Senator



IBM



[Vermont Interactive Technologies.org](http://VermontInteractiveTechnologies.org)



Summary

Vermont has a sophisticated, successful distance learning & videoconferencing infrastructure *and* A highly qualified staff of educators and technical experts with 125 years collective experience.

An investment in VIT is more than an investment in a distance learning system-it's an investment in Vermonters because it gives them access opportunities they need to learn, work and survive/thrive in Vermont.



Connect with VIT

Tara Lidstone

Executive Director

tlidstone@vitlink.org

802.345.0092

*Thank You for your past support
and future consideration.*

[Vermont Interactive Technologies.org](http://VermontInteractiveTechnologies.org)