

VERMONT STATE COLLEGES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RESOLUTION

Chancellor's Recommendation to Unify Johnson State and Lyndon State Colleges

- WHEREAS, The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees recognizes that Lyndon State College and Johnson State College provide essential access to high-quality, affordable public higher education opportunities for students; and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees recognizes that each campus is an important economic and cultural resource for their regions and the State of Vermont; and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees is committed to ensuring that both campuses remain vibrant, viable, and vital for the long term; and
- WHEREAS, Many reliable sources, including Moody's Investors Service, predict that financial challenges caused by inadequate state financial support, demographic changes, increased expenses, and competition from new delivery modes will cause a significant increase in college closures across the country; and
- WHEREAS, Even as they provide high-quality programs, small, tuition-dependent colleges are particularly vulnerable to such financial challenges; and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees recognizes the potential for a larger size institution to increase opportunities and supports for students with a more comprehensive curriculum, shared co-curricular learning opportunities, and more efficient use of support resources; and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees recognizes the potential for a larger size institution to create a stronger, more diverse community of faculty and staff with more opportunities to draw upon and develop faculty and staff expertise; and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees recognizes the potential for a larger size institution to achieve an improved economy of scale, redirecting valuable resources from administrative functions to the institutional mission; and
- WHEREAS, Chancellor Jeb Spaulding recommends that the Board unify Lyndon State College and Johnson State College under one administration, creating one

larger and stronger college with two distinct campuses, each with its own identity, with Dr. Elaine Collins as president at the time the unification takes place on July 1, 2017;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees affirms its commitment to maintaining vital and vibrant campuses, each with its own identity, as points of access to affordable public higher education at both Lyndon and Johnson; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees supports in concept the Chancellor's recommendation to unify Lyndon and Johnson State Colleges into one larger and stronger college with two distinct campuses, each with its own identity, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That in order for the Board to be fully prepared to make a decision on the Chancellor's recommendation at its September 29, 2016 meeting, the Chancellor shall:

- Meet with students, faculty and staff at both the JSC and LSC campuses to solicit their feedback on the Chancellor's recommendation;
- Prepare a report that includes this feedback and identifies and addresses the legal, contractual, financial, academic, communications, and other issues that need to be addressed in order to successfully implement the Chancellor's recommendation; and
- Outline a transition plan, including a timeline, for implementation of the Chancellor's recommendation.

July 21, 2016