

September 9, 2016

To the Johnson State and Lyndon State Communities,

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees is expected to make a decision in late September on whether to unify Johnson State College and Lyndon State College into one bigger and stronger institution: a single entity with two distinctive campuses.

A larger institution would increase opportunities and supports for students with an expanded and more diverse curriculum, shared co-curricular learning opportunities, and more efficient use of resources to support students. It would create a stronger, more diverse community of faculty and staff. And, a larger institution would lead to an improved economy of scale, redirecting valuable resources from administrative functions to the institutional mission.

Should the Board vote to move forward with unification, they will also need to approve a new name for the institution. *Your input on a possible new name would be most welcome and appreciated.*

Below, please find a link to a survey that will allow you to make suggestions. Some basic criteria that will be used to evaluate possible new names include:

- A new name will include “Vermont.”
- A new name will provide for inclusion of each campus. For example, Vermont State College – Lyndon and Vermont State College – Johnson.
- A new name should not lead to confusion between the unified institution and the University of Vermont.
- A new name should be concise, be easy to remember, and lend itself to effective marketing.

One other name-related decision is whether the new unified institution will be a college or a university. Some feel that “University” carries more weight and may help with recruitment. Others do not agree and believe “University” suggests a larger and less personal place, which is not consistent with the close-knit, personal environment at both the Lyndon and Johnson campuses.

Here is the link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UnificationNewName>

If you are interested in participating, please complete the survey by September 16th. The resulting input will be collated and shared with the Unification Advisory Committee, which provide its advice to college presidents and me. Then, in consultation with the college presidents, I will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees, possibly by September 29th and no later than the end of November.

Thank you for your interest and input.

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