

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2016

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### VTrans and Vermont Tech Launch Build Vermont Pathway

MONTPELIER, Vt. – Governor Peter Shumlin joined Transportation Secretary Chris Cole, Vermont Technical College (Vermont Tech) interim president, Pat Moulton to launch the new Build Vermont Pathway program as part of today’s VTrans recruitment day on the Vermont Tech campus in Randolph Center. Build Vermont Pathway is the result of a collaboration between Vermont Tech, the Community College of Vermont (CCV) and VTrans to align degree programs with career paths at VTrans and to provide advice and support to students who choose to pursue them. After a morning of presentations and panel discussions, VTrans staff conducted an afternoon of on-site interviews with students for summer internships.

“When I came into office I encouraged my administration to break down the silos and work cooperatively, supporting each other’s missions”, said Governor Shumlin. “This is a great example of State government working more efficiently and is exactly the kind of program we need to be developing to help young Vermonters get good jobs that will keep them here in Vermont.” “My hope is that more Vermonters will go to college, get a degree and use that knowledge gained to secure employment in Vermont.”

“VTrans and the transportation and construction sectors have a constant need for talented workers with specific skills,” said Transportation Secretary Cole. “By engaging with students early, we can provide them with knowledge about the excellent opportunities available at VTrans and help to ensure that they are following the right path to these technical jobs.”

“I am confident that our partnership with VTrans will serve as a model for other state agencies and industries in Vermont,” said Interim President Moulton. “Aligning our degree programs with promising careers will provide new opportunities for students while delivering the talent that will keep Vermont competitive.”

The USDOT estimates that transportation employers across the main subsectors of trucking, transit, air, highway, rail, and maritime will need to hire up to 4.6 million workers—1.2 times the current transportation workforce—in the next decade. Through the Build Vermont Pathway program, students can choose from a range of 2-year degrees that include a paid internship at the Vermont Agency of Transportation including Aviation, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Diesel and Automotive Technology, Construction Management, Business, and Information Technology.

Vermont Tech and CCV keep tuition and costs low for Vermont residents and neighboring states and provides qualified students with financial assistance and scholarship opportunities. VAST students can attend their first year of the Build Vermont Pathway tuition-free and leverage the VAST Forward Scholarship for one semester of the second year of their associate degree. Once employed at VTrans, employees are eligible for tuition reimbursement which makes a four-year degree affordable. Veterans can access their GI Bill funding for tuition assistance. All students in the Pathway program will have an opportunity for a paid summer internship between their first and second years.