


**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Members of the VSPBE

**FROM:** Patricia Moulton, President  
Vermont Technical College 

**DATE:** June 3, 2019

**SUBJECT:** SNHU Request for a ROPA Review

I am writing regarding a recent proposal by Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) to open a career & technical teacher education endorsement program and to offer the program to cohorts of teacher-candidates in Vermont. We do not feel Vermont is large enough to support two career & technical education endorsement programs and we urge you to continue to support your existing partnership with Vermont Technical College.

Vermont Technical College's Career & Technical Teacher Education Program (CTTEP) prides itself in the strong relationship that has been developed with technical center directors and has had a longstanding contract with the Vermont Association of Career & Technical Directors to provide teacher education services. This is a long standing relationship with CTE's around the state and we very much value this partnership. In the last few years, Vermont Tech was chosen to do this work through a Request for Proposals process to find an education partner. Based on this we have continued to operate the program effectively. We look forward to continuing this work. To do so, we need a large enough cohort of teacher-candidates to provide a cost effective, efficient and reliable product. Cohort sizes currently are at a sustainable level. If there are two programs running within the state, one or both may not be sustainable.

We have a number of significant concerns about the SNHU proposal and the future of a variable CTTEP program in Vermont. These concerns include:

1. The potential to dilute the pool of teacher candidates needed to run a successful and sustainable cohort.
2. If the SNHU program is offered in an online format, we have concerns for the success of the teacher-candidates when they are in the classroom. Historically, teacher-candidates have needed face-to-face interaction in order to take advantage of a quality learning environment, one in which they learn from the experiences of their cohort group. If they plan on serving cohort size groups, see concern #1.
3. Local and state education funding will be diverted out-of-state, potentially eliminating Vermont based jobs and reducing VSC revenue.
4. In-state intellectual resources will not be utilized nor will they be as knowledgeable about CTE in Vermont.
5. The SNHU application suggests there is an unserved or underserved population of teacher- candidates. However, our experiences is that all technical centers in the state

- have one or more teacher-candidates currently accessing the program, with the exception of Canaan where there are no current unlicensed instructors or teacher openings in CTE.
6. The SNHU application suggests that offering another program in the state may increase the candidate pool for technical centers to choose from when openings become available. This is counter to the current hiring and apprenticeship process used by technical centers, which requires individuals to be hired and then trained as they work. There will be no incentive for individuals to earn a CTE endorsement in the absence of a job opening.

Questions of quality will need to be answered during the ROPA (Results Oriented Program Approval) process. The Vermont Tech CTTE Program is a ROPA approved program.

Questions we have include, but are not limited to:

1. How will teacher-candidates receive feedback while they are in the classroom?  
Who will observe and mentor them, as the Vermont Tech CTTE Program currently does?
2. How will portfolio development be overseen and supported?
3. How will a SNHU program receive feedback from technical center directors?  
Currently, the Vermont Tech CTTE Program Director attends all Tech Director meetings.

In summary, Vermont Tech has a long standing partnership with CTE and the Agency of Education for Teacher Certification. A second program may dilute teacher pool jeopardizing programs. Lastly, we are very concerned about delivering a quality a teacher certification program completely on-line. To assure Vermont continues to have quality instruction at our CTE's, we need to assure the quality of the program that prepares and certifies them. The apprenticeship model currently in use assures this quality. We ask that you help assure quality is maintained.

Thank you for your consideration.

CC: Lyle Jepson, Director, Career & Technical Teacher Education, Vermont Tech  
Maureen Hebert, Director of Continuing Education and Workforce Development,  
Vermont Tech  
Jay Ramsey, State Director for Career Technical Education, Agency of Education  
Heather Bouchey, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Education.