



October 28, 2025

Ms. Joyce M. Judy
President
Community College of Vermont
PO Box 489
Montpelier, VT 05601-0489

Dear President Judy:

I write to inform you that at its meeting on September 25, 2025, the New England Commission of Higher Education considered the report submitted by Community College of Vermont regarding implementation of its Pell Eligible Prison Education Program, as well as the report of the evaluator, and took the following action:

that the report regarding implementation of Community College of Vermont's Pell Eligible Prison Education Program be accepted;

that Community College of Vermont submit its Best Interest Determination for Commission review by June 12, 2026;

that the interim report scheduled for consideration in Spring 2027 be confirmed.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its actions.

The Commission accepted the report submitted by Community College of Vermont because it provided evidence that the College is implementing its Pell Eligible Prison Education Program in a manner consistent with Commission standards and policies.

The Commission commends Community College of Vermont for its:

- Success in attaining approval from the U.S. Department of Education in Spring 2025 to offer its Associate in Professional Studies degree as a Pell-Eligible Prison Education Program at Vermont's six correctional facilities.
- Commitment of CCV's faculty, staff, and senior leadership to the success of its Corrections Post-Secondary Education Initiative and providing sufficient resources to ensure students in the program have access to comparable resources including financial aid counseling.
- Achievement of enrollment goals set for the Corrections Post-Secondary Education Initiative with student headcount doubling from 23 in Fall 2023 to 50 in Fall 2024.
- Building of effective partnerships with each of the Vermont Department of Corrections facilities.

The Commission reminds the institution that per United States Department of Education (USDOE) requirements, a Best Interest Determination needs to be established between the College and the VT Department of Corrections within two years of the program's approval. As the program was approved on June 12, 2024, we look forward to receiving the Best Interest Determination as soon as it is established but no later than June 12, 2026.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the reports prepared by Community College of Vermont and the evaluator and hopes that the evaluation process has contributed to institutional improvement. It appreciates your cooperation in the effort to provide public assurance of the quality of higher education.

You are encouraged to share this letter with all of the institution's constituencies. It is Commission policy to inform the chairperson of the institution's governing board and the head of the system of action on its accreditation status. In a few days we will be sending a copy of this letter to Lynn Dickinson and Elizabeth Mauch. The institution is free to release information about the evaluation and the Commission's action to others, in accordance with the attached policy on Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions.

If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Lawrence M. Schall, President of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Whelan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Whelan".

Michael Whelan
Commission Chair

MW/sjp

cc: Lynn Dickinson
Elizabeth Mauch
Visiting evaluator

Attachment: Public Disclosure of Information about Affiliated Institutions