



# JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

to the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees

MAY 22, 2014



As noted in our April report, we have been deeply involved in discussions about a projected \$1.5 million gap in next year's budget resulting from a dip in enrollment and flat state support. We are teaching and learning community and therefore heavily people-dependent, so the majority of our budget is dedicated to salaries and benefits. As a result, reductions in personnel are necessarily part of the solution, and we made the difficult decision May 12 to eliminate five full-time administrative and service positions, reduce seven others to 80 percent of full time, and convert another to half time. In making the adjustments, we were guided by the goal of ensuring uninterrupted academic programming and student services; none of the reductions directly affects student services or academic programs. Working together, we will manage through this period and emerge stronger — dedicated first and foremost, as always, to our students and their success during college and beyond.



## 2014 COMMENCEMENT

As we submit this report, we are gearing up for our 147th Commencement on Saturday, May 17. We will graduate close to 400 students who have completed requirements for undergraduate and graduate degrees. Our keynote speaker will be Veronika Scott, 24, of Detroit; our student speakers will be undergraduate **Elisabeth Beatty-Owens**, External Degree Program graduate **Joe Gittleman**, and master's degree graduate **Christina Hill**.



As a college student, Veronika Scott designed a coat for people who are homeless that transforms into a sleeping bag. That idea evolved into The Empowerment Plan, which employs homeless single mothers to produce the coats. She is the youngest recipient of the John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award from the JFK Library Foundation and Harvard University, recipient of an IDEA Gold Award from the Industrial Design Society of America, one of CNN's "Ten Visionary Women" announced in February, and winner of the 2014 DVF People's Voice award honoring "extraordinary women who have had the courage to fight, the power to survive and the leadership to inspire; women who have transformed the lives of others through their commitment, resources and visibility." Veronika spoke on campus earlier this year as part of our 2013-14 Common Reading Initiative, which centered around the book *Detroit* by Charlie LeDuff. We will be awarding her an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.



## NEW PROGRAMS & FACULTY FOR FALL

As we make necessary adjustments to our non-teaching staffing levels, we continue to invest in new academic programs and high-quality faculty. We will offer several new programs starting with the fall 2014 semester:

- **Health & Sport Psychology:** This new concentration combines coursework in psychology and health sciences and a hands-on internship designed to prepare students for careers in this growing field.



Graduating varsity athletes pose for a group photo at the annual JSC Athletics Banquet held Tuesday, May 6, in the SHAPE Varsity Gym.

Citizenship School. Kelsey will be in Baltimore, Md., training aspiring alternative-break student leaders through a program called “Collaborative Approaches to Securing Food for All.”

### EARLY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

We have been very successful in recruiting students for this new program at JSC, which enables high school students to complete their senior year with us and earn up to 30 college credits tuition-free. Sixteen students have already paid their deposits and another four have applied; we are able to accept only 18.

- **Pre-Physical Therapy:** A new concentration in our health sciences major, this demanding program will prepare students for graduate doctor of physical therapy (D.P.T.) programs as well as chiropractic and physician-assistant graduate study.
- **Sport Management:** This new concentration in our retooled business (formerly business management) major combines studies in sports, finance, management and leadership to prepare for careers in the business side of sports, a growing, \$213 billion-a-year industry in the U.S. alone.
- **Accounting:** Both an accounting concentration and a new “Certificate of Proficiency in Accounting” have been added to our business major. The certificate is being offered through our External Degree Program and is designed to help Vermonters meet new state licensure requirements for accountants and sit for the CPA exam without having to enroll in graduate school. Starting IN July, Vermont accountants will need a bachelor’s degree and a total of 150 college credits, including 42 credits in accounting-related classes, and one year of experience. Under current regulations, Vermont accountants need only 120 college credits — a bachelor’s degree — along with two years of experience.

In addition, we will be adding up to seven talented, full-time faculty members in the fall who will teach students in our graduate and undergraduate programs.



### JSC STUDENT NAMED TO NATIONAL LEADERSHIP POST

Kelsey Magee, a Badger Alternative Breaks student leader, has been named a site leader for the 2014 national Alternative Break



Graduating Environmental & Health Science seniors (from left) Emily Sokolowski, Abby Murphy, Colin Santee, Brittany McCarthy, Erika English and Melissa Rixon presented their research findings to the JSC community Tuesday, April 29.

### CAMPUS SAFETY UPGRADES

In the latest step to improve the College’s public-safety infrastructure, we obtained funds from the state designated for emergency communications to install a wireless, public-address system with speakers placed around the campus. We also installed a new radio system and repeater to improve public-safety communications. The systems were installed at the recommendation of our College Crisis Response Team.

### 2014 RELAY FOR LIFE RAISES \$7,000

On May 3-4, students, staff and community members participated in JSC’s second annual Relay for Life overnight to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Despite having to move the event inside due to rain, it was a tremendous success. We have raised more than \$17,000 and hosted more than 400 people in the two years we have coordinated the event.

