To: University of Vermont Community

From: Tom Sullivan, President
Wanda Heading-Grant, Vice President for Human Resources, Diversity, and Multicultural Affairs
Annie Stevens, Vice Provost for Student Affairs

Re: Florida Killings

We are shocked and saddened by the tragic shooting early yesterday morning, June 12, at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, which resulted in 50 deaths and over 50 more people being injured. While the investigation is ongoing and the specific motive is not yet known, the devastating impact on the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community is very real. Our hearts go out to the families and loved ones of those lost and injured.

We share our grief in this senseless loss of life. As a community, our values denounce any act of violence and particularly violence that may be the result of bias or hate. We offer our care and support to members of our UVM community at this time, and especially those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

We invite you to join a march and vigil being held today, Monday, June 13 at 6 p.m., organized by the Pride Center of Vermont. The march will begin near the First Unitarian Church in Burlington and will proceed down Church Street to City Hall Park, where the vigil will be held.

If you feel you need additional support, please contact the Counseling Center (for students) at (802) 656-3340 or InvestEAP (for employees) at (802) 864-3270. In addition, there are various offices on campus that offer specific support, such as the LGBTQQA Center, the ALANA Center, the Women’s Center, the Center for Cultural Pluralism, the Office of International Education, the Dean of Students Office, and the Spiritual and Religious Life Council.

Please take advantage of these resources and reach out to each other for support and solidarity.