From: Tom Sullivan
To: University of Vermont Faculty, Staff and Students
Re: President’s Our Common Ground Staff Award

I am pleased to announce the President’s Our Common Ground Staff Award, a new award that will be presented annually. The award will recognize six members who exemplify the qualities of the University of Vermont’s Our Common Ground, the statement of aspirations and shared values for the UVM Community:

Our Common Ground

We aspire to be a community that values:

RESPECT. We respect each other. We listen to each other, encourage each other, and care about each other. We are strengthened by our diverse perspectives.

INTEGRITY. We value fairness, straightforward conduct, adherence to the facts, and sincerity. We acknowledge when things have not turned out the way we had hoped. As stewards of the University of Vermont, we are honest and ethical in all responsibilities entrusted to us.

INNOVATION. We want to be at the forefront of change and believe that the best way to lead is to learn from our successes and mistakes and continue to grow. We are forward-looking and break new ground in addressing important community and societal needs.

OPENNESS. We encourage the open exchange of information and ideas from all quarters of the community. We believe that through collaboration and participation, each of us has an important role in determining the direction and well-being of our community.

JUSTICE. As a just community, we unite against all forms of injustice, including, but not limited to, racism. We reject bigotry, oppression, degradation, and harassment, and we challenge injustice toward any member of our community.

RESPONSIBILITY. We are personally and collectively responsible for our words and deeds. We stand together to uphold Our Common Ground.

The Award will be presented to University of Vermont staff members who have made extraordinary contributions and who have had a significant impact on our University, as demonstrated through the values expressed in Our Common Ground. The recipients will each receive a prize of $1,000.
Faculty, staff and students may nominate staff members for the President’s Our Common Ground Staff Award. A Committee will review nominations and select the six recipients. The attached contains additional information about the award including the criteria and the nomination process. Information is also available on line at President’s Our Common Ground Staff Award.

The deadline to submit nominations is **March 14, 2014**. Nomination and supporting material should be sent to Gary Derr, Vice President for Executive Operations at Gary.Derr@uvm.edu or 347A Waterman Building. Nominations and support letters may also be submitted using the links on the at President’s Our Common Ground Staff Award webpage. The winners will be announced later this spring and will be recognized at an awards brunch on Monday, May 5, 2014.

I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to recognize a member of our staff for their outstanding contributions and service to the University of Vermont.