I am pleased to share with you *Preparing for Life After UVM: A Career Success Action Plan* prepared by Professor of Economics and Dean of the Honors College S. Abu Rizvi. (The complete report is available on the President’s webpage.) The plan reflects consultation with numerous campus constituencies including faculty, staff and students, review of best practices at other colleges and universities, and an extensive review of literature on career planning and success. Dr. Rizvi’s report represents significant new opportunities for our community that will lead to further integration of the academic experience into career planning for our students. A strong classroom experience, combined with experiential learning opportunities including internships and practicums, and enhanced career support will create a distinct UVM experience for our students. A highly effective Career Services plan is a high priority of the Board of Trustees and as mentioned before is central to the University’s Strategic Action Plan.

I also would like to highlight several of the initiatives that we are implementing that will serve to enhance our already strong Career Services program:

- Creating a Career Services presence in the Dudley H. Davis Center on the lower level, allowing convenient access for students.

- Working with students to pursue writing four-year career development plans, outlining steps they can take each year to discover and explore their interests, build their skills, connect them with academics and the world of work, and engage in the job search process.

- Expanding the number of industry-specific internship programs we offer, initially targeting engineering, computer science, mathematics, and statistics; business; and food systems, with more to come.

- Adding staff and resources to assist students, further expanding our array of internships across all academic programs, bringing more employers to UVM, and expanding student employment opportunities.

Although there are costs with implementing this investment plan, we are working to address how this priority will be implemented most effectively to achieve success. It is essential that we continue to make targeted strategic investments that will secure UVM’s position as a preeminent university that offers an outstanding, comprehensive student experience. While we need to be attentive to the challenge before us, we must consider purposefully all opportunities to achieve the vi-
sion for our great University. Assuring the success of our students after graduation is as important as while they are enrolled. If we do each well at UVM, our students will be life long friends of the University.

As you know, there is increased governmental scrutiny at both the federal and state levels of completion and career/graduate school placement rates, leading to greater comparison of our outcomes with other colleges and universities. Career issues are important to all students and their families, and are of special concern for the students of diverse backgrounds. An outstanding career preparation and experiential learning program increases student success and satisfaction, and improves retention and four-year graduation rates.

I ask that in the coming weeks when UVM hosts numerous admitted student events and we communicate with prospective students, that you share with them the importance of this initiative and highlight the new opportunities that will be available beginning Fall 2013.

Thank you.

Cc: Julie Roberts, President of the Faculty Senate
    Stephanie Kaza, Vice President of the Faculty Senate