To: University of Vermont Community

From: Tom Sullivan, President
David V. Rosowsky, Provost and Senior Vice President

Re: Appointment of Scott Thomas as Dean of the College of Education and Social Services

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Scott Thomas as Dean of the College of Education and Social Services, effective July 1, 2016. Dr. Thomas is currently Dean of the School of Educational Studies at Claremont Graduate University, a private, graduate-only university located in Southern California’s Claremont Consortium of Colleges.

Dr. Thomas is an accomplished educator and acclaimed scholar of education. His research spans the preschool through college spectrum and focuses on issues of student success and the stratification of educational opportunity. He is widely published, with numerous books, book chapters, and peer reviewed articles published in leading education journals. His work has been supported through externally funded research grants totaling more than $5 million. He has a passionate commitment to public education.

Dr. Thomas is the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Higher Education, the oldest and most influential journal in the field of higher education and co-editor of International Studies in Higher Education, an international book series examining how different nations are responding to the dramatic global increase in demand for higher education. He also serves as the president of the roughly 3,000-member Association for the Study of Higher Education, North America’s primary scholarly society devoted to the academic study of postsecondary education.

Prior to joining Claremont Graduate University in 2008, Dr. Thomas held tenure line faculty positions at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, the University of Arizona, and the University of Georgia - all public flagship universities in their respective states. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in sociology and a Ph.D. in Educational Policy, Organizations, and Leadership, both from the University of California Santa Barbara.

We wish to thank the faculty, staff, students and others who served on the Search Committee, ably chaired by Chief Information Officer and Dean of Libraries and Learning Resources Mara Saule. We are enormously grateful to Dr. Cynthia Gerstl-Pepin for her service as Interim Dean over the last year. She has provided thoughtful and skillful leadership to the College during this time of transition.

We look forward to working with Dr. Thomas as a member of the University’s senior academic leadership team. Please join us in welcoming him to the University of Vermont.