TO: UVM Faculty and Staff

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

DATE: August 11, 2016

SUBJECT: Update on Plans to Launch a University-wide Institute on Environment

We are very pleased to share news of a critically important advance in one of the University’s highest priorities: an Institute that will build on UVM’s long-standing leadership in environmental research, scholarship and outreach. The recommendations of three separate faculty-led working groups, developed over a four-year period, have coalesced with our fundraising efforts. In June 2016, donors signaled their willingness to make a leadership gift to the Institute in the very near future.

This is welcome and exciting news. After four years of thoughtful and strategic efforts we are moving forward with Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees’ review of the new Institute. To support discussions that will take place in the early days of the Fall semester, we have created an Institute website that includes a complete history of the Institute’s development; an Executive Summary with information on the Institute’s mission, strategy, structure, governance, budget and evaluation; as well as other informational resources.

We hope that you will participate in Institute discussions within your unit, that you will lend your support to this significant opportunity for the University of Vermont, and that ultimately you will engage in the important work of the Institute.