Jennifer K. Fath is an unyielding advocate for student learning and support who truly believes in the mission and values of the University of Vermont. As Director of Student Services at the School of Business Administration, she exemplifies the Our Common Ground values of respect, integrity, innovation, openness, justice, and responsibility in all facets of her position as a leader, colleague, School representative, and student advocate.

As a student advisor, Jennifer consistently rises to the occasion, carefully, tactfully, and judiciously utilizing available resources that generate new ways of thinking and problem-solving. In challenging situations, she always seeks agreement among all interested and affected parties and considers all points of view with integrity, honesty, and impartiality. Jennifer exhibits a calm professionalism in her job that will continue to enhance her career. She is the type of professional colleague that leaders always seek in a crisis. She is a patient listener and always lends an empathetic ear that many have come to appreciate deeply. With her many years of experience and knowledge, she has all but written a manual on how to effectively support students and staff in the School.

Jennifer’s colleagues have come to rely on her generosity, competence, and integrity. Her perspective is always grounded in her tremendous knowledge base, fairness to all students, and respect for her colleagues. She demonstrates her integrity and honesty through her promise-keeping, dependability, and her commitment to finishing each task. Both students and colleagues value her candor and her eagerness to solicit feedback from others.

Well-known by her colleagues for effective innovation, Jennifer exhibits deep commitment to the University and a strong work ethic. She continually spearheads new strategies for improving student retention, new advisor training, curriculum design, online services, and course sequencing. Her colleagues and students very much appreciate her openness to finding new solutions to challenges and her ability to resolve conflicts and challenges.

Jennifer’s approach to leadership is always guided by her respect for others and her inclusive practices. She has shown skilled leadership in identifying effective ways to integrate international students into the School and has navigated these uncharted waters with integrity and grace. Colleagues across the School and the University are grateful for her willingness to share her expertise, mentor new staff members, and collaborate across colleges and schools.