Pamela K. Gardner has had enormous impact on the lives and careers of thousands of students in her nearly three decades at the University of Vermont. As a campus leader, she has worked tirelessly to uphold the Our Common Ground values. As Director of the Career Center for twenty years, Pamela has been instrumental in building the Career Center, which has become an exceptionally successful and influential department. Last year, the Career Center made national headlines thanks to her energy, enthusiasm, and fresh thinking.

During her long career at the University, Pamela has served as a source of stability and support for students, staff, and faculty. She listens to people with great care and openness. She is thoughtful about when to offer her advice and always speaks with insight, compassion, and honesty. Always respectful of others, she values diverse perspectives and honors the individual experiences of those around her.

During her tenure, Pamela worked closely with colleagues across the University to improve the Career Center and serve students better. She developed a listening tour of the student body and found that many students believed the Center was for those pursuing corporate careers. In response, she shifted the focus of the Center to include service-learning internships, a non-profit program, special advising for undecided majors, and other initiatives that offered support to a broad range of students. She worked with the ALANA Center, Academic Support Programs, the LGBTQA Center, and other campus resource centers to deliver programs for the students served by those departments and to welcome all students to the Career Center. In implementing the 2013 Career Initiative, she has worked to increase awareness of the importance of a four-year perspective on career development and played a key role in the creation of the Career + Experience Hub, which has made a huge difference at the University in just two years. The Career + Experience Hub makes UVM a more attractive institution for prospective students and prepares students to be successful while they are still matriculated and after graduation.

Pamela is well-known for her deep commitment to diversity and social justice at the University. She has been an active member of the ALANA Coalition, served as a valued advisor to Alianza Latina, and been a crucial ally for many LGBTQ colleagues and students. Her leadership in the Division of Student Affairs has been integral to developing and maintaining a commitment to multiculturalism. She has made significant contributions to the culture of respect at the University and greatly advanced career services that support all students across the curriculum.