Bev Colston’s career at the University of Vermont has grown steadily, with a progressive strength that has reached people across every corner of the campus. Just like a tree, Bev has planted her roots solidly at UVM and in the surrounding communities, staying firm in her beliefs and holding fast to her personal and professional values around diversity, inclusion, social justice, and anti-racism.

While Bev focuses on the support and success of students of color at UVM, she is clear that she should not be the only one doing this work. Instead, she inspires others to speak up about the student-of-color experience, building allies along the way and helping her colleagues gain a deeper understanding about the current issues students of color face at UVM. This work requires a great deal of relationship building and intentional dialogue, while motivating others to act. Bev performs this work with an integrity fueled by her passion for justice and equity.

Leading the ALANA Student Center is not just hard work, it is heart work. Bev’s genuine and authentic care and concern for her students is what has allowed her to continue to do this heart work for over a decade—students are always and often at the center of her professional goals as she remains committed to the retention and success of students of color at UVM. Anyone who meets Bev immediately responds to her approachable nature. She is truly invested in every individual she meets, often making you feel like you are the only one in the room because she truly cares about others on a deep and personal level.

Bev’s leadership in second to none—throughout her time at UVM she has inspired others to develop programs, committees, and institutional commitments that uphold UVM’s commitment to inclusive excellence. She believes and fosters her community to express how they can bring their individual-selves—in all their intersecting identities—to the work they do.

Compassionate, fierce, and inspiring—these are just a few adjectives that describe Bev Colston’s impact and presence at the University of Vermont. Her quiet determination and commitment to student advocacy has made her a motivating presence across the UVM community—not just for students, but for faculty and staff as well.