Scott Miller is held in the highest regard by his colleagues across the University of Vermont. He is eternally helpful and considerate of others’ needs and always seems to come through on whatever is asked of him, including helping colleagues outside of work. Many people wonder where he finds his boundless energy and optimistic spirit.

Scott’s day-to-day work for 10 years as the Maintenance Project Coordinator for Libraries at the University of Vermont involves balancing numerous major projects; coordinating with Physical Plant colleagues, contractors, and vendors; bringing productive input to a myriad of meetings; responding to building issues; and interacting with faculty and staff who have a concern or need. He is responsible for making sure library departments remain functional during construction projects or other physical changes. He continually checks in with temporarily relocated departments, respecting the individual needs of displaced colleagues and assuming the responsibility of making sure those needs are met. At these times, Scott is consistently within reach, keeping the library staff informed about the goings-on with construction and how they might be impacted. Moves into redesigned areas are incredibly smooth thanks to Scott’s attention.

Scott has spearheaded numerous innovative changes to the Bailey/Howe Library: upgrading technology infrastructure; improving furnishings for the students, such as larger work surfaces and more comfortable study chairs; and creating specialized areas such as the Reference classroom, quiet study space, and group study rooms. Since January 1st, the ten study rooms at Bailey/Howe Library have been used approximately 1,000 times a month: they are extremely popular.

Recently, Scott received a request for all-gender restrooms at the Bailey/Howe Library to support the transgender community at UVM. It is often both a political and logistical struggle to create these accommodations, and can be especially challenging in older facilities such as the library. Scott indicated that he had already explored solutions to what he recognized as an injustice, and is currently playing a significant role in fulfilling this request.

Scott embodies the principles of Our Common Ground every day in the way he approaches his work and his colleagues, and endeavors to make our libraries functional, inviting, and equitable for all. We are deeply grateful for his many contributions.