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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **UVM and Northfield Savings Bank Partner in Leadership and Professional Development Programs**

BURLINGTON - The University of Vermont and Northfield Savings Bank announced a partnership this week to assist Vermont businesses with leadership, transition, professional development programs. Northfield Savings Bank, a 5-year partner of the Vermont Family Business Initiative (VFBI) at UVM, is expanding the scope of the relationship to include the Vermont Business Center (VBC). The VBC offers leadership and management development seminars, training needs assessment services and custom training programs.

Rocki-Lee Dewitt, Dean of the UVM School of Business Administration, reflected on the successful partnership, "We're pleased Northfield Savings Bank is engaging in a major effort to assist businesses and organizations in the state. Their knowledge and experience will help us develop and deliver programs which enhance business success."

The Vermont Business Center served in excess of 300 individuals in the past year, representing over 100 Vermont businesses and organizations. 70% of the public program participants were managers, directors, presidents, CEO's or small business owners. As well, Vermont Business Center will provide leadership and management training to Northfield Savings Bank through the partnership.

Northfield Savings Bank was founded in 1867 and is the third largest bank headquartered in Vermont. The bank has opened 5 branches in Chittenden County since 2004. Thomas Pelletier, President of NSB is excited about partnering with the Business School at UVM. "Northfield Savings Bank is committed to being involved with the communities we serve. This partnership with the Vermont Business Center represents a mutual opportunity for both parties to assist businesses and improve economic development in Vermont," states Mr. Pelletier.

A public discussion series on leadership will be launched in October 2007. For more information or comment, go to <http://uvm.edu/vbc> or call 656-5897.