**PURPOSE STATEMENT**
The purpose of the Peer Mentoring Program is to increase the academic, career, and social success of first year students of color, including first-generation college students, and students with limited income. This is done by creating a greater sense of community at UVM. The program matches continuing undergraduate and graduate students with first year students. Mentors build relationships with mentees by sharing their time and knowledge of resources at UVM and the greater Burlington community.

**WHY MENTORING?**
Mentoring can be defined as a helpful relationship between a younger and older individual. The purpose of having a mentoring relationship in college is to assist students with the challenges associated with the first year college experience. The Peer Mentoring Program provides academic and personal support for participating students during the challenging first year of college. Relationships are built by matching mentors and mentees through interviews, profiles, and mentor matching sessions.

**THE ALANA STUDENT CENTER**
The ALANA Student Center (ASC) was established in 1976 to better meet the needs of African, Latina/o, Asian, and Native (ALANA) students at the University of Vermont. Since then, we have expanded our services to all students of color, including those who identify as Bi/Multiracial.

The ASC fully supports the holistic being of our ALANA and bi/multiracial students so that as confident students of color, they attain their goals for academic achievement, personal growth, identity formation, and cultural development. Many students describe the ASC as their “Home Away from Home.”

(Mentee Application)

(ASC Peer Mentoring Program)

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Please return the attached application

Beverly Colston
Director
ALANA Student Center
342 South Prospect Street
Burlington, VT 05405-0041
or
Beverly.Colston@uvm.edu

Beverly’s Direct Line: 802.656.8671
Please call or e-mail if you have any questions
STUDENT COMMENTS:
“Thinking about what I’ve gained from mentoring, I think the most significant thing has been being able to learn from my mistakes and actually apply that knowledge to help someone else out. A lot of things our mentees are going through, we’ve already dealt with, whether successfully or not and it’s a chance to reflect on that and apply what we learned. Being a mentor has greatly enhanced my experience, not only as a student, but as an individual. I’ve had the opportunity to assess my past decisions & experiences and learn from them, while passing that knowledge down to a new friend. The program gives us all a chance to learn from each other, grow together, and have fun in the process!”
-Vicki Lee

“I would definitely say that the peer mentoring program provided me a person to which I could always turn to. It was really hard my first year adjusting because I didn't necessarily have that family background to fall back on that some other students did. This is a really isolating feeling. But my relationship with my mentor is one that I value to this day. She is a truly amazing person who I feel honored to know.”
-Sydney Triola

“Having a mentor during my first year was a very enriching experience. It was great knowing someone had my back and had gone through similar experiences. My mentor made me feel a lot less alone during my first year. My mentor gave me plenty of great advice and I felt better prepared for what was to come here at UVM through my conversations with her. Being a mentee made my first year a great deal easier, and I was able to also meet some of my current friends through the Peer Mentoring Program!”
-Gisselle Francis

MENTORS PROVIDE:
• Personalized guidance and friendship during the first year of life at UVM.
• Experience and knowledge about how to be a successful college student.
• Information about academic resources, co-curricular activities, and the social life at UVM.
• An introduction to Burlington and local community resources.

ACTIVITIES:
Many activities are offered during the school year to enhance the mentor/mentee relationship. In addition, mentees and mentors assist in the planning of activities. Past activities have included: bowling night, laser tag, game and movie nights, apple picking, ice skating, pot-lucks, indoor waterpark, pizza parties, career and study skills workshops, and attending cultural performances at the Flynn Theatre.

SIGN UP FOR A PEER MENTOR AND HAVE THE BEST FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE!

Please fill out this form and return to: Beverly Colston, UVM-ASC, 342 S. Prospect St., Burlington, VT 05405-0041 or fax 802.656.8511 or e-mail Beverly.Colston@uvm.edu

Name:___________________________________
Student ID:_______________________________
Local Address:__________________________________________
Telephone:_______________________________
Cell:_____________________________________
E-mail:___________________________________

Gender:________________________________________
Mentor gender preference?  □Yes  □No
If so, please specify gender:____________________

Racial/Ethnic Background: ____________________________________________

UVM College/School & Major:________________________________________

What are your hobbies/interests, etc.?________________________________________
What interests you about having a mentor?________________________________________
Who has been the most influential person/mentor in your life and why?________________________________________