



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome to the 30th Volume of *The Vermont Connection*! The journal you hold is a clear testament to the longevity and quality of the University of Vermont's (UVM) Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration (HESA) graduate program. On behalf of the 2008-2009 TVC Editorial Board, we wish to acknowledge the critical contributions you make as students, faculty, alumni/ae, assistantship and practicum providers, and friends supporting and participating in the ever-growing HESA community.

As TVC advisors and alumnae ourselves (albeit from different eras!), we have witnessed the journal come together through the dynamic and purposeful leadership that characterizes this year's graduating HESA cohort. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn and serve with the Editorial Board to produce a physical manifestation of the connection we all share, one that reaches beyond the UVM campus or these pages and is greater than any of us individually. The scholarship, professionalism, reflection, and research articulated in these printed pages demonstrate the diverse perspectives and talent throughout the HESA community.

A primary goal of this year's Editorial Board is to further foster the HESA connection through innovative uses of technology (i.e. social networking), increased accessibility to TVC resources, enhanced communications, and seeking feedback in order to empower the alumni/ae base to impact TVC and HESA. In a variety of arenas this year, we have witnessed the profound impact and influence of a large group of empowered people on the course of history. As TVC strives to provide a lifeline to all HESA alumni/ae, we sincerely appreciate the effort you put forth to stay connected and informed, recognizing that our collaborative efforts strengthen not only the journal, the academic program, or higher education, but also our global community and citizenry.

In authoring this letter together, we found ourselves celebrating how HESA developed in us a way of thinking that invites multiple and even divergent perspectives, a tremendous gift as we advance professionally and personally in higher education and beyond. We invite you to take some time to read this journal and

reflect on your path since completing the program or, if a friend of the program, since being introduced to HESA.

We thank you personally for the vital role you play in keeping “the connection” alive and are sincerely grateful for your continued support as these engaged, thoughtful professionals venture into higher education and beyond. In this difficult economic period in higher education, your support of these newly minted HESA graduates would be greatly appreciated. Your commitment to HESA ensures the future of this program and our profession are in capable hands.

As we reflect on and celebrate the production of 30 TVC volumes by our respected (soon-to-be) colleagues, let us honor and renew a commitment to the wisdom of E.M. Forster: “Only connect.”

Warm Regards,

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The University of Vermont