



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dear colleagues and friends of TVC,

We hope that this letter finds you well. As we were deciding what to write “home” about, our thoughts were drawn to the tremendous support and significant connections that HESA alumni/ae, students, and colleagues have offered over the last year.

This year, many of our campuses and organizations experienced significant financial setbacks and challenges. While the amount of work we were asked to accomplish may have stayed the same or even increased, we strove to find creative ways to serve our communities with fewer resources available to us. We also know that many of us carry additional titles outside of our offices, such as mentor, advisor, volunteer, parent, family, or community member. These commitments have their own sets of demands and rewards, but they do not exist independently from our role as educators.

In juggling these aspects of our personal and professional lives, we like to think of The Vermont Connection as a consistent support network. Knowing how many of our colleagues may have faced challenges this year reminds us of our common relationship as members of the UVM HESA community. For example, making calls during our annual Phone-a-Thon was an exciting way to reconnect and remember how members of our community – though scattered throughout the U.S. and the globe – reach beyond their individual locations and come together every year to support a common purpose.

Tricia Rascon graduated from the Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration program in 2006 and is currently the Assistant Director for New Student Orientation at the University of Vermont.

Alissa B. Strong is a HESA 2007 graduate and is currently Career Counselor and Alumni Career Programs Coordinator within Career Services at UVM. She has enjoyed co-advising of The Vermont Connection this year and staying connected to the HESA community. She hopes to continue her learning and involvement around social justice issues, civic engagement and international service.

For those of us who will experience significant change or transition in our lives, the role of support networks and community inevitably become a factor in our success. Just as we help students locate resources, become involved, and establish community, we can also assist our own colleagues in the same way. We can be proactive in our efforts to serve as resources to our colleagues. From a coffee date to sending job opportunities over the HESA listserv, sharing experiences and “aha” moments, or exchanging ideas, many of you continue to strengthen our network and deepen the intention of The Vermont Connection. We work very hard to keep our doors open to our students. Being a part of the HESA community reminds us that our doors are open to each other as well.

Recognizing each other as resources and tapping into our UVM community can be one of our strongest tools during both good and challenging times. The Vermont Connection serves as a strong network of fellow professionals and, for many of us, meaningful relationships. Those of us in the HESA community represent a range of skills, a diversity of experiences, a breadth of expertise. We encourage each of us to offer our skills, knowledge, and community connections to assist a colleague, especially when circumstances are testing our resilience.

We look forward to reconnecting with each of you through conversations at conferences, future Phone-a-Thons, and our common efforts to create communities of support and collaboration.

All the best,

Tricia Rascon (HESA '06) and Alissa B. Strong (HESA '07)
The University of Vermont