



Erin

Erin Montgomery coordinates Faculty Development and Graduate Education at the Larner College of Medicine, but she is best described as the ultimate advocate for students.

Erin has worked at UVM for 14 years, first in the Graduate College as administrative assistant for the campus-wide interdisciplinary Cell and Molecular Biology Program, and then as an academic advisor for the Grossman School of Business, before joining the Larner College of Medicine. Erin cares deeply about the students she is entrusted to help. She not only provides academic support but is proactive in getting to know students on a personal level. Students trust Erin for her innate compassion and empathy. She is known for having an open door for students to come

to her with whatever problems they might be having—academic or otherwise. Sometimes her counseling involves helping a student understand how to find the right resources to address academic deficiencies; other times Erin will compassionately help students see alternative paths if their current trajectory isn't working. It is a testament to Erin's integrity and compassion that students turn to her in this way.

Erin shows great initiative in proactively seeking solutions for issues that arise in her interactions with students. When it became obvious that many Masters of Medical Science students are anxious about taking the MCAT exam, she organized weekly study sessions, matching students with various review topics according to their strengths so they could both help each other learn the material and develop confidence for the exams. This successful initiative proved to be an innovative way to help our students succeed. Erin's ability to go above and beyond her job description to make a positive difference in her students' UVM experience truly sets her apart.

This year Erin helped the postdoctoral scholars to organize and form the first Postdoctoral Association at UVM. While there are many postdocs across the University, all driving vital research efforts in subjects ranging from cancer biology to political ecology, postdocs have never been recognized as a group until Erin stepped in. Erin was a driving force in getting the steering committee off the ground and maintaining the group's momentum. She contributed important philosophical guidance, consistently emphasizing inclusiveness and helping to develop policies that ensure fair representation and reflect the needs of postdoctoral scholars across the University. Her hard work has already had a positive impact on the postdoctoral community.

In all of her endeavors, Erin embodies the selflessness, respect, and empathy that the President's Our Common Ground Staff Award stands for. She is clearly a person of integrity, one who you would feel lucky to call a friend, let alone an advocate on your behalf.