



The University of Vermont

Office of the Provost
and Senior Vice President

TO: University of Vermont Faculty

FROM: Jim Vigoreaux, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs
Cathy Paris, Faculty Senate President

DATE: July 30, 2018

SUBJ: Campus-Wide Faculty Conference

We write to invite you to a faculty conference to take place on August 20, 2018, from 7:15 AM to 10:30 AM. The early morning breakfast and ensuing event, held in conjunction with the New Faculty Orientation, launches the third annual *UVM Faculty Development Series* and provides an opportunity for returning faculty to welcome new colleagues. The *Faculty Development Series* is a year-long program designed to assist faculty in acquiring the knowledge and skills to succeed as 21st century educators and maintain excellence in research and scholarly activities.

The theme for this year's series is *Narratives and Counter-Narratives in Academic Practice*. Lectures, discussions, and workshops scheduled throughout the year will further develop the conference theme and examine applications of this analytical framework in everyday academic practice.

We are pleased that Emily Bernard, PhD, Julian Lindsay Green and Gold Professor of English, will be the keynote speaker for the faculty conference. Professor Bernard is a nationally recognized scholar and writer. She has published four books, and has written extensively about racial identity, African American culture, and teaching. Professor Bernard will be presenting her analysis of the first-year summer read, Ta-Nehisi Coates's *Between the World and Me*. The title for the keynote address is *To Learn a New Language: Ta-Nehisi Coates and the Condition of Race and Racism*

A preliminary agenda of the day's event is attached. We kindly request registration by August 13 for the Campus Wide Faculty Conference by clicking [here](#).

Following Professor Bernard's presentation, faculty interested in pursuing the themes developed in Coates's book are invited to sign up for a small-group discussion from 10:45 AM to 12:30 PM. Book discussions will focus on the themes of the keynote lecture and the book. Groups will be facilitated by a faculty member and will have 6-8 participants; in some cases, they will meet with a second group for a combined concluding discussion. Participants are expected to have read Coates' *Between the World and Me*, or Coates' article "A Letter to My Son" in *The Atlantic* prior to attending the discussion. A link to the Atlantic article [is here](#).

Space in the book discussion groups is limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so please register before August 13 if you wish to participate. To sign up for a discussion group, please click [here](#).

You may address any questions to Jim.Vigoreaux@uvm.edu.

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