



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is indeed an honor to join this year's Editorial Board of *The Vermont Connection* (TVC) in extending acknowledgements to the University of Vermont (UVM) Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration (HESA) community.

To those closest to me during my HESA experience, it comes as no surprise that this Berkeley native struggled through two years of what I perceived to be a relatively taxing meteorologic and racial climate in Vermont. Nevertheless, whenever I am asked about my UVM experience, I tell people that Vermont was challenging . . . yet, the sense of community I felt during my two years of graduate school was greater than that which I experienced at any other period in my life. (Actually, I don't say it with such grammatical formality, but the sentiments remain the same.)

From White privilege to William Perry, Schlossberg to Seven Vectors, this community of classmates, administrators, and faculty helped me make meaning of the theory that would ultimately better inform my practice.

More importantly, the community I found in Burlington, Vermont, supported me through my struggles unrelated to textbooks. Sometimes assistance came in the form of practical advice—*you don't wear ankle socks with snow boots*. Other times I needed to be guided through program-related epiphanies—*apparently "part-time student" plus "part-time professional" amounts to (or at least feels like it amounts to) full time student who happens to work full-time*. Most often, the support was far less tangible, yet ultimately left me with the feeling that I mattered. It is this communal support that allowed me the space to better understand who I was as an educator and as a whole person.

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Upon attending a few of the TVC receptions at professional conferences as a student, I was heartened to find that this incredible community extends far beyond Burlington, Vermont. At those receptions, I also came to realize that *The Vermont Connection* is more than a scholarly journal; it is the HESA community's touchstone. It is our rallying point. TVC is our *Giving Tree*, supporting us in a variety of ways, depending on our needs. As graduate students, it provides us opportunities to grow professionally, personally, and communally through the fundraising, editing, and coordinating process. As professionals, the journal provides us with a vibrant communal space for scholarly discourse long after we have finished defending our *comps*. And as conference attendees, it provides us with a time and physical place to reconnect with our friends and colleagues, to be affirmed in our decision to join this community of kind and thoughtful human beings.

On behalf of the 2006-2007 Full Board and *The Vermont Connection*, I would like to thank each of you for your generous contributions to the journal and your support of the UVM HESA community.

Sincerely,

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