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Acknowledgements

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

On behalf of this year's TVC Board, we are proud to present the 40th edition of *The Vermont Connection* journal. Like every one of its predecessors, this edition would not have been possible without the support of many alumna, friends, faculty, students, and others who have helped us along the way.

This journal is a community effort that would not have come together without the members of the 2019 and 2020 cohorts who dedicated their time as editors and proofreaders, offering constructive feedback and encouragement throughout the production process. We would like to thank Lizzy Gomez (HESA '15) for helping with the editing process and continuing to remind us of the lifelong value of *The Vermont Connection*. We also thank Isora Lithgow (HESA '20) for offering the Advising Center as a space for editing and community building throughout the journal production process, and the staff of the Davis Center for their assistance in reserving and setting up spaces for so many events this year. A special thank you goes to Dr. Susan R. Jones (HESA '81) and Dr. Wanda Heading-Grant for providing thought-provoking forewords and reflections on this year's journal theme.

This year, we worked with a fantastic group of staff advisers — Eric Carnaje (HESA '16), Cristina Vega (HESA '15), and Erin Baker — who consistently offered their support not just as advisors but also as mentors and friends. We are also tremendously grateful to all of our HESA faculty for their teaching, guidance, and encouragement in every step of our HESA journey. Our gratitude extends to Dr. Jay Garvey, our Faculty Adviser, Dr. Tracy Ballysingh, Dr. Deborah Hunter, and Dr. Lee Williams, this year's Interim HESA Program Coordinator.

We were also fortunate to learn from many other scholars and practitioners in the classroom this year. A special thank you goes to Dr. Tiffanie Spencer for instructing the Foundations and Functions of College Student Personnel class this fall, to Dr. Wanda Heading-Grant for sharing her wisdom with the second-year cohort, and to Dr. Annie Stevens (HESA '86) and Rafael Rodriguez for their guidance, feedback, and mentorship instructing the Legal Issues in Higher Education class.

We extend our sincerest thanks to Dr. Scott Thomas, the Dean of the College of Education and Social Services, for guiding HESA students through the legal labyrinth of the Higher Education Act. To all of our faculty: your passion and dedication help make us better students, scholars, and professionals.

As any student affairs professional can tell you, we have also engaged in a great deal of learning outside of the classroom. We continued our professional development this year thanks to the help of alumna, friends, and colleagues who contributed their time and expertise. Dr. Pamela Gardner (HESA '85) continues to help the second-year cohort navigate the job search process and makes all of us feel more empowered to pursue our dreams. Kelli Perkins, Eric Carnaje, and Dr. Pamela Gardner graciously served as panelists in our Conferences 101 professional development program. Samantha Haimes provides tremendous support in all things related to HESA recruitment and professional development, including the HESA Booklet, Google Hangouts, the second-year professional development series, and Preview Day; thank you, Samantha, for leading us in some unforgettable laughs during the UVM Ropes Course team-building activity. Jilliene Johnson (HESA '12) mentors and inspires all of us by providing important opportunities for professional development and reflection, and has stepped up to help coordinate this year's Preview Days. Many thanks also go to the Division of Student Affairs and the Department of Residential Life for their partnership in planning this year's ACPA and NASPA receptions. Last, but certainly not least, we are immensely grateful to the many practitioners across campus who provide challenge, support, and mentorship as supervisors in our practica and assistantship roles.

This year's Phone-A-Thon was a significant success, raising more than \$10,000. This money will fund next year's journal and provide ongoing social, educational, and professional development opportunities for current and future HESA students. We would like to thank the UVM Foundation, especially Kevin F. Morgenstein Fuerst, for helping coordinate TVC's development efforts by launching our online donation platform and mailing out this year's journal. We also thank Dr. Erika Nestor (HESA '99) for helping secure the financial future of TVC through her savvy advice and guidance regarding the Jackie Gibbons Fund. Finally, we are extremely grateful to Daphne Wells (HESA '06) for allowing us to use the Student Life offices as our Phone-A-Thon headquarters and for dedicating her time to call alumna on TVC's behalf.

It does take a village to keep the HESA program and TVC running. We express our sincerest gratitude to Chris Caswell, the HESA Office Program Support Generalist, for being a superstar behind the scenes, keeping everything HESA-related running smoothly and handling all of TVC's shenanigans, and Jean Evans ensuring the financial health of TVC. We did not forget Rev. Laura Engelken (HESA '96) who allowed us to use the Interfaith Center for this year's Executive Board retreat.

Last, but never least, we send our most profound appreciation to those who came before us. We thank the executive board of TVC 39 for sharing their collective wisdom throughout the year and paving the way for the success of this year's executive board. And, most of all, we thank all of you for being a part of The Vermont Connection. We are excited to see what the future will bring to the HESA program, and we are confident that The Vermont Connection is rock solid.