

The Vermont Connection

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Editor's Note

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EDITOR'S NOTE



I must admit, this is one of the hardest pieces of writing I've ever produced, and one of the most fulfilling because this is my final stamp as Executive Editor of an amazing organization. As I reflect on the production of the journal, from Spring 2014 elections to now as we put the last submission into InDesign, I am reminded of a phrase that my cohort is always telling one another, “trust the process” or “T the P.” There have been plenty of moments during my executive board experience when trusting the process felt intimidating! One that stands out was the abstract submission process. The first few days after the initial posting of the call for submissions was nerve-wracking. As an executive board, we thought of the worst case scenario: what if we were the journal that no one wanted to submit to? After some time and late night messages supporting each other as we discussed our fears, we received plenty of amazing ideas and outlines, and all it took was stepping back, being patient, and trusting the process!

The theme of the 36th volume of *The Vermont Connection* is “Shades of Transition.” The executive board came together during the summer to think of a theme that incorporated all of our thoughts and ideas of what would provoke unique submissions and would reflect our experiences during our time in HESA. Transition was a prominent theme. We thought of our definitions, all similar but varying in our individual interpretations, and thus “Shades of Transition” was developed. In our call, we asked contributors and readers to process our theme in both the literal and theoretical realms. Amidst constantly changing professional, personal, and political environments, we as student affairs practitioners intentionally grapple with the nuances inherently complicating the world transitioning around us and within ourselves. Transitions are prompted for many reasons; some are imposed upon us, some are planned, and some happen with no warning at all. The pieces included in this volume strive to provide authors’ narratives, research, and art to answer this prompt and to add their passion to this journal.

One inspiration for the theme of transition stemmed from the major changes happening in the HESA program, specifically with the retirement of our faculty and support staff. Kathleen Manning has been inspirational to the field and to the experience of the students she’s educated directly in the classroom and indirectly

through her academic work. Her sudden retirement announcement shocked the graduating, current, and incoming cohorts at the time. With her retirement, and that of Jill Tarule and Diana Dubuque, HESA was in need of another cohort of educators. This academic year, we welcomed Vijay Kanagala and Kelly Clark-Keefe as faculty and Marjorie Dunki-Jacobs as the Administrative Assistant for the Department of Leadership and Developmental. Transitioning from what the 2015 cohort knew about HESA with Kathy to a new volume of HESA with Vijay and Kelly was, in my experience, challenging. We had no older cohort to ask for tips on what our faculty was like in the classroom and could give only a few tips to the first years. Fall 2014 was truly a semester when trusting the process was crucial to the success of our cohorts, and like many transitions, we will only know what the result is when it happens.

Finally, TVC is going through its own transitional process! We are shifting to a more journal friendly website with hopes of no longer printing journals and maximizing our budget for more developmental opportunities for the cohorts. We moved production and editing to an entirely online process, where in the moment changes can happen with the Co-Content Editors and authors. We took a chance, trusted ourselves, and the outcome was a complete success!

Thank you Roman, Rob (Bobby), Michael, Cristina (Vega), Lian and Atiya for being the best executive board I've ever worked with, Kim, Jeff, and Deb for advising us to be our best, the 2014 and 2016 cohorts for inspiring amazing work, the 2015 cohort for trusting the process, HESA alumni/ae for a history that keeps growing, and friends of HESA for your constant support. Producing this journal was transformative and transitional for all the members of this executive board. With a tremendous amount of pride, I introduce the 36th volume of The Vermont Connection.

Nakiya C. Findley
Executive Editor
The Vermont Connection