Academics are central to a college education, but they are only part of the transformation that occurs during a student’s four years on campus. Research shows that student life outside the classroom directly impacts overall success.

At UVM, the Division of Student Affairs encompasses all activities beyond academics that help students be healthy, engaged and successful. We assist students from first-year orientation through graduation and beyond as they secure their first job or enroll in graduate school. This support is critical, often making the difference in whether students stay in school and ultimately graduate.

UVM students credit their co-curricular involvement with increasing their abilities to communicate, work in teams, make decisions, prioritize information and solve problems (Project CEO, 2015).

This campaign presents UVM with an opportunity to build on this foundation and excel in delivering an outstanding student experience. The campaign will strengthen programs that foster and integrate students’ personal, academic and co-curricular development — better preparing them for their careers and lives. Join us.

80%

More than 80% of UVM students are involved in a club or organization, compared to 65.5% nationally (CEO Survey, 2015).
Advancing Student Health
Developing and maintaining personal health habits is vital for students’ academic, career and personal success. UVM has several unique initiatives to support students’ healthy habits and choices.

**Wellness Environment (WE):**
UVM seeks to become a leader in creating a wellness-centered university. Student Affairs partnered with the College of Medicine to launch WE, an integrated wellness and comprehensive residential program, in fall 2015. WE is a novel approach that combines community programming (mindfulness, nutrition, fitness and mentoring) with an innovative classroom experience. We hope to grow WE to meet student demand, which has already exceeded expectations.

**Identity and Intervention Programs:** We also aim to further programs that contribute to a positive campus environment, including establishing a Men’s Identity and Personal Leadership Center and ensuring broad-based participation in intervention programs. In particular, we want to invest in Bystander Intervention training, targeted at combatting sexual assault; and Campus Connect, designed to heighten suicide awareness and
“THIS IS WHERE we create opportunities that build leaders. I participated in Service TREK during my first year, which led to my involvement in Alternative Spring Break. By my senior year, I was the program’s finance director, responsible for managing a $50,000 budget. That kind of hands-on experience was invaluable.”

— Emily Howe ’15, Burlington, Vermont
In addition, we hope to construct a new Outing Club facility. This structure would provide a headquarters for the club, one of the largest student organizations, with about 1,500 members, to conduct training, gather for trips and lend equipment.

**Promoting Students Success**

**Career Services:** Today, there is no more vital investment in higher education than strengthening career services. Through the campaign, we will invest in a full range of career programs. These include our new 4 Year Plan for Career Success, a curriculum of career development designed to integrate students’ activities inside and outside the classroom, and the Career + Experience Hub, an interdisciplinary drop-in space allowing one-stop shopping for students to learn about internships, undergraduate research, studying abroad, job shadowing and more.

**First-Year Programs:** National studies show that housing students based on their major or career interests during their first year increases both retention and academic success. Students have the opportunity to live in this programmed housing, take courses together and receive academic mentoring and support. Through the campaign, we hope to offer these first-year residential experiences for all seven schools and colleges.

**Learning Assistance:** We know early academic advising optimizes student success. Through the campaign, we aim to open a new advising center to provide centralized academic advising. We also hope to expand the Defining Excellence Award — our scholarship program for students with disabilities — as well as the Universal Design for Learning peer program. Known as UDL, this peer-led, small-group tutoring program increases retention and graduation rates for students in large UVM courses.


"My first week of school freshman year was the only time I wasn’t involved in any clubs,” says Joey Oteng ’15, a religion major with a biology minor who hails from Cincinnati, Ohio. “After that, I was active with six to eight clubs per semester.”

These included the Inter-Residence Association, the governing body for students living in campus residence halls; first-year student orientation; and Phi Mu Delta, a fraternity where Oteng headed up membership, administration and community service and also served as chaplain.

“Clubs and organizations are how I made friends, connected with administrators and saw my academics show up in the most practical ways,” he explains. Oteng even found a career direction: He’s currently enrolled in a higher education master’s program at Kent State University in Ohio.
Never before has the potential to strengthen the overall student experience and develop new opportunities for student engagement been so perfectly aligned with opportunities for support and advancement.

UVM has seasoned leadership and talented staff who are all dedicated to helping students succeed. We have faculty researchers, staff and students prepared to launch new experiences to support student health. We have new residence halls ready for innovative programming. We have a new student center that provides space to bring together faculty, students and staff for programs that will enrich the campus, the local community and the world.

Move Mountains presents UVM with an extraordinary opportunity to realize this potential. Now, we need your help. Together, we can succeed in this campaign, which will allow us to invest in strong current programs as well as create new programs to meet the changing needs of today’s student population.

Already, support from alumni, parents and friends is transforming tomorrow’s vision into today’s reality. Together, we will move mountains.

For more details about any of these giving opportunities, contact:

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Move Mountains: The Campaign for The University of Vermont

The time has come for UVM to assert our position as one of the nation’s best public research universities. Move Mountains: The Campaign for The University of Vermont nurtures a culture of excellence and value and supports new opportunities for research, academic success and learning beyond the classroom. We will raise $500 million in private support to ensure that UVM is where we indeed move mountains — through the students we educate, the discoveries we make and the positive impact we have on Vermont and the world.