

From: On Behalf Of Suresh V. Garimella
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 3:40 PM
Subject: Vice President for Operations and Public Safety Gary Derr

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From: Suresh Garimella
Re: Vice President for Operations and Public Safety Gary Derr

Following more than four decades of distinguished service in higher education, our friend and colleague, Gary Derr, has decided to retire from UVM this year. I have asked him—and Gary has agreed—to stay on with us through the opening of the Fall 2021 semester. He will be transitioning to retirement later in the Fall semester.

Gary's impressive legacy on our campus is far-reaching, including re-imagining and orchestrating convocation and commencement, chairing many senior leadership searches including two presidential searches, establishing key university policies and best practices, creating staff and faculty recognition programs, managing Board of Trustees meetings, overseeing presidential events, maintaining timely internal communications, and keeping our campus safe. Suffice it to say that because of these accomplishments and so many more, Gary's influence will be part of the UVM experience for generations.

Gary's dedication, commitment, and positive approach to key aspects of life at UVM for the past two decades are unmatched. Most recently, Gary played the leading role in UVM's pandemic response, overseeing the extensive testing, quarantining, and other strategies that led to excellent results. As I write this message, Gary is ensuring that the campus will transition smoothly back to normal operations over the next several weeks.

Gary has connected constructively and tirelessly with UVM students. Who can forget his rapping and dancing in an informational video with student government leaders, the "Who is Gary Derr?" interview with SGA on YouTube, or "Email Gary Derr Day" organized by students in 2013. Gary's work exemplifies the importance of keeping the student experience at the center of all that we do.

Since joining UVM in 2000, Gary has served in a variety of leadership roles, including vice president for executive operations and senior executive support roles to the president and provost—sometimes serving both leaders rather miraculously at the same time. He has worked directly with four UVM presidents, each of them depending on Gary's informed counsel and sound leadership the way I do today. Prior to finding his "forever home" at UVM, Gary held senior student affairs roles at Green Mountain College, University of Hartford, and Alliance College. He earned a Doctor of Education degree here in 2002.

When Gary steps down, he intends to enjoy life in Danby spending more quality time with his wife, Lynn. Please join me in thanking Gary and wishing him the very best in the future. My office will share information soon about an appropriate way to recognize Gary's many contributions to UVM.

Suresh Garimella
President
University of Vermont