

KAREN GROSS



Karen Gross was President of Southern Vermont College, a small, private, affordable, four-year college, located in Bennington, VT, for eight plus years (until December 31, 2014). The College enrolls many first generation, low-income Pell eligible students, and is committed to student access and success. With a strong interest in athletics, she chaired the NECC and was on the NCAA DIII President's Advisory Group. In 2012 Karen served as Senior Policy Advisor to the US Department of Education, representing the Department on the interagency task force charged with redesigning the transition assistance program for returning service members and their families. She worked on the White House Initiative on HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities), collaborating with its Director who is now President of Morehouse – an HBCU. Prior to becoming a college president, she was a tenured law professor for more than two decades and has served on a wide range of non-profit boards. Currently, she speaks, writes and consults on strategies for student success, improving educational leadership and handling educational crises. To that end, Karen serves as Senior Counsel at Widmeyer Communications, a Finn Partners Company, and writes for publications including HuffPost, WPo, Hechinger Report, CollegeAD and *Inside Higher Ed*. She has two forthcoming books in 2016, one on student success and the other is a children's book on girls' empowerment. She is an Affiliate of the Penn Center for MSIs and works with and advises governments and non-profits on education issues. Karen is a cum laude graduate of Smith College where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and a cum laude graduate of Temple University School of Law, having spent her final year of law school at the University of Chicago.