

## MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

FROM PRESIDENT PAMELA EDINGTON  
AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 2019

Dear Friends,

On May 16 another 1,000 of your friends, neighbors and perhaps family members will become DCC graduates, prepared to transfer to four-year schools or enter the workforce. Some came to the College directly from high school or are the first in their family to attend college; others are nontraditional students who enrolled after succeeding in ESL or high school equivalency classes, or adults looking to advance in the job market. Whatever path they followed, all will cross the stage in triumph and become college graduates. This serves as a vivid reminder of the importance of community colleges in providing access and a better future to anyone with a dream and the motivation to make it a reality. Graduation is indeed a joyful day for families and for the faculty and staff who have nurtured these students to the finish line.

For more than 60 years, Dutchess Community College has been doing this work as one of the most highly regarded institutions in the State University of New York system, and we are very proud to continue that legacy. The work of our faculty and staff is evident throughout the county, the state, the country and the world, in the stories and successes of our 43,000 alumni.

The fact that DCC educates more local residents than any other single institution of higher learning every year is a testament to the quality, value and accessibility we offer and the remarkable opportunities available to students. So, too, is the fact that DCC graduates are sought after by employers and by transfer institutions including Cornell, RPI, Pace, NYU, Penn State, Marist, Vassar and the selective SUNYs, as well as colleges across the country. SUNY reports that DCC graduates who go on to a four-year SUNY school are more successful in their first year at the transfer institution than are graduates of any other community college! Our alumni also are more financially prepared to begin the next chapter of their lives, as DCC's annual tuition currently is \$1,000 below the SUNY community college average.

Despite consistently attracting an impressive one-third of Dutchess County's college-bound high school graduates, DCC is experiencing declining enrollment, as are the majority of the community colleges in New York state. Fewer children in the K-12 pipeline, and attending





college, means less state and tuition revenue for DCC. Dutchess County provides our third major source of funding, and we are working collaboratively with our local elected officials to ensure that the College has the resources necessary to provide excellence for the long term.

Though perhaps counterintuitive, a smaller number of enrolled students does not correlate to a reduction in overall expenses. The costs associated with maintaining our facilities, keeping the lights on, providing contractual salaries and benefits to employees, maintaining compliance with regulating bodies including SUNY, the State of New York Education Dept., the Middle States Commission on Higher Education accrediting agency and other facets of operation are independent of how many students are enrolled. Moreover, as today's students come to the College with more need than ever before, the resources required to provide the necessary academic and support services continue to escalate.

We will continue to address the budget implications of decreasing revenue without compromising student success. For example, several energy-saving measures have been instituted, positions open due to attrition have not been filled and sophisticated software has been introduced to more efficiently schedule classes. Our commitment to effective resource utilization is reflected in SUNY's most recent benchmarking report, which ranks DCC the fourth lowest in expenditures per student.

Investment in Dutchess Community College pays enormous dividends in breaking the cycle of generational poverty, enabling individuals to realize their dreams and enhancing the quality of life in our community. As leaders of the College we are the stewards of the institution, but we need your support to ensure that current and future generations receive the accessible, affordable, high quality education for which DCC is highly regarded.

We're collecting stories from people whose lives have been positively impacted by DCC. Please share your story by sending an email to [mydcc@sunydutchess.edu](mailto:mydcc@sunydutchess.edu), getting involved and advocating for our students and our community.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT

Pamela R. Edington, Ed.D.

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