

"The Fruits of Our Labor"
Ann Patton, Classified Senate President
Opening Day Fall 2012

Good morning! It's nice to see everyone here. I hope you all got some R&R over the summer.

This year, for the first time, I planted a garden. Thanks to our Horticulture Department, I have quite a bounty.

I learned that plants have different needs. Some need more water, some need more sun, some need extra food, some need trimming, and some need propping up.

I think it's a lot like helping students succeed. We each help them grow in many different ways.

Each plant produces its own variety of fruit of different sizes and shapes. It takes all of us together to help students bear fruit, so to speak. Some of us do the planting - bringing students in and getting them registered; some of us do the watering - helping students with services; some of us do the feeding - providing the knowledge; and some of us do the weeding and prop them up - helping students when they are struggling. And, then we all share in the harvest when they complete their certificates and degrees. And, society shares in the fruits of our labor when those students become productive members of society.

I also learned some things I will do differently in my garden next year. Some plants will be in different spots, some I will not plant as many - zucchini, some I may not plant at all. But I will keep making continuous improvements to my gardening methods to grow the best crop possible. Just as we do here by working together and making continuous improvements in how we serve students and help them succeed.

And, like a garden, it is so satisfying when they are successful.

We have come through a lot over the last few years. Yet, we have worked together to get through it and find ways to continue to have successful students, despite dwindling resources. The year ahead will have its challenges, but I believe we can face them together and grow the best students possible!

I hope you all have a great semester and I look forward to working with all of you at this wonderful institution that is DVC!