Dear 2020 Graduates,

Today, you become Dutchess Community College alumni. Congratulations on having the determination, grit and vision to set a goal and achieve it! You worked hard for this accomplishment, challenged yourselves, and now have a valuable college diploma to show for your work.

Through your classroom experiences, interactions with faculty and staff and involvement in extracurricular activities, you’ve learned how to be critical thinkers, effective problem solvers and responsible community members.

You have learned to work with, respect and appreciate people of different backgrounds, experiences, abilities and perspectives. You understand that diversity and inclusion make our society stronger, and to think differently is to think smarter.

You made a real difference in Dutchess County through your community service, volunteerism, service learning projects and other initiatives that enhanced the quality of life in our region while preparing you to excel beyond Dutchess Community College.

These experiences will serve you well as we live through one of the most uncertain and difficult times our nation – and world – have faced. The COVID-19 pandemic quickly and profoundly altered every facet of our lives, causing both hardship and opportunity for growth. Those of you who were enrolled in on-site classes this spring, quickly had to adapt to remote learning modalities to complete the semester. I am so proud of you and our faculty and staff for successfully making this transition under the most challenging of circumstances. You are survivors!

While the state and local social distancing guidelines preclude us from celebrating graduation in our traditional manner, in no way should our virtual graduation ceremony diminish this momentous occasion for you, your friends and family. The circumstances are terribly unfortunate but the significance of your accomplishments and the memories of your college experience should not be compromised. Be proud, be happy, be excited!

Class of 2020, you have demonstrated that you have what it takes to persevere, achieve and triumph. I am confident that DCC has prepared you for success as you move forward into a new chapter of your life. Use what you learned at DCC to be a good neighbor, a better friend, and someone who positively impacts the lives of others. Always be kind.

Congratulations!

Pamela R. Edington, Ed.D.
President