

## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Aquinas Community:

Aquinas College is very proud of the historic achievements it has accomplished over the years - we have academically and spiritually enriched the lives of so many, and through them, improved the communities and people they serve. And now, we are entering into what will prove to be another important stage in the advancement of Aquinas.

As you know, we have recently completed programming, master planning, and zoning approval for the main campus that will transform our College. Along these lines, we are advancing other segments of our teaching and adapting them to best serve our students, graduates, and our mission.

Beginning May 31, 2009, we will be ending our affiliation with IPD (the Institute for Professional Development), who has handled enrollment and marketing. We will bring our Adult Studies program "in-house" and administer it in such a way that will better serve our students and our College. Current students will perceive virtually no immediate changes because the changes we are instituting are mainly administrative. However, as of August 2010, all students will be moved to the main campus for the completion of their courses of study.

As part of the changes, we have begun an evaluation of the existing adult studies programs and their contribution both to our mission and finances. Until that evaluation is complete, after May 31 we will not commence new cohorts in any of the programs other than the RN-BSN program. In the near future, we will be reaching out to students who began but did not complete one of the business programs to offer them an opportunity to join an existing cohort and complete their studies. These former students, as well as our currently enrolled students, deserve an opportunity to complete their degree with us and we fully intend to offer that opportunity! Once our evaluation of the adult programs for business is complete, we will share the results with you.

Because of the critical need in the health care area for well trained nurses, we will continue to serve the adult learners through the RN-BSN program. We will move the administration of that program to the main campus this summer. For our staff and faculty (whom we DEEPLY appreciate), we plan on and count on your involvement as we continue this great program.

One of the greatest benefits of these new opportunities is that we will have the chance to integrate more fully our adult students into the life and learning experiences at the main campus and thereby strengthen the connection of Adult Studies students and faculty to the "Aquinas Community."

The Aquinas management team and Board of Directors have been closely studying the various components, issues, and ways to make this transition in the most beneficial way; and I look forward to sharing more about the improvements as we move forward.

For all of our staff and faculty, thanks for your commitment and service to Aquinas College! For our students in the Adult Studies Program, thank you for choosing Aquinas College and count on our continued support and prayers.

Sincerely,

*Sister Mary Peter, O.P.*

Sister Mary Peter, O.P.  
President

