

September 2009

This is truly an extraordinary time for Nashua Community College as we celebrate 40 years of providing affordable, high-quality education to residents of the Greater Nashua region. We take pride in our dynamic, energetic, environment and our ability to respond to the needs of our community. We embrace change and support educational experiences that cultivate a passion for learning.

Acknowledging that violence has become epidemic throughout our country and communities, we are now offering a new Peace and Justice Studies concentration that prepares our graduates to function as community advocates to help ensure a society in which equality and peace building are embraced and preserved. This program has three major aims:

- 1. To prepare community members and program graduates to relate interdisciplinary theories and practices of peace and justice to their own lives and to real-world problem-solving.
- 2. To recognize the potential of conflict as an opportunity for possible constructive outcomes and to develop alternative strategies to everyday violence through education, research and action.
- 3. To encourage academic exploration of the growing field of Peace and Social Justice Studies through the nation and the world.

We understand that this new, innovative program means risk-taking; we encourage risk-taking to meet the changing needs of the market place. By providing market-driven, accessible, quality programs that respond to the needs of students, businesses and communities, we have increased our enrollment this fall by 20 percent.

Further evidence that this innovative program is timely is that the Peace and Justice Studies program started this semester above capacity; new faculty have been attracted to our College; four year Colleges and Universities are already seeking our graduates; international enquiries are coming in about our programs; and the local community is delighted to be benefiting from our Service Learning required activities.

Service to our community is one of the tenants of NCC education, as we believe in being a model citizen in the region. By embracing an understanding and appreciation of our socially and technologically complex world, and by preparing and empowering our students to actively participate in building a just and equitable society, we are preparing tomorrow's leaders today.

Ludille Jordan

President