

PROVOST'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Thank you all for the warm welcome you have extended to Mort and me. You have made the phrase "Hometown University" come to life for us. Working together we will make it a reality for an increasing number of students.

ASU West is a remarkable place in so many ways. You as community leaders had a dream and made it happen. You created a campus dedicated to making dreams happen for others. We will build on the achievements of the past to create an exciting future for ASU West.

As a newcomer to ASU West and to the Valley, I would like to share some perspectives with you. You may remember reading stories to your children about arduous quests for prizes and treasures, when all the time the treasure was in plain sight. ASU West is a treasure in plain sight.

Our superb faculty, educated at top institutions, do not see a conflict between teaching and research. Instead, they are ready to create a new standard of teaching excellence by involving students in the excitement of discovery. I invite you to visit our life science laboratories, where community college students, undergraduates, and graduates are working in research teams with faculty members, studying the surface of Mars, observing the aging process in fruit flies, investigating the connection between traditional environmental science and what Native Americans know about nature.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has recognized our own Vincent Waldron, associate professor of communication studies, as Professor of the Year for the state of Arizona. Vince understands that teaching, research, and service are all connected activities and he integrates them through the Partnership for Community Development, a College of Human Services initiative to create faculty partnerships with local organizations to address critical social issues and contribute to the development of healthy communities. Vince leads teams of students and faculty in practical problem-solving addressed to real issues.

Our faculty, students, administration, and staff are treasures in plain sight.

Our tri-campus university family is also a treasure. No unnecessary bureaucracy here. President Lattie Coor has established a Cabinet made up of the three provosts (West, East, and Main) and three other university officers to work on university policies. The collaboration and mutual respect in this group is remarkable.

With all these treasures, ASU West is poised to play an important role in ASU's goal of becoming a "university for the next century." Our three campuses are more than the sum of the parts. We gain strength from each other. West has a particular mission to serve the West Valley. I didn't realize until I moved here how significant Phoenix geography is. A few tedious hours on I-17 helped me to understand the necessity for an ASU campus in Northwest Phoenix. But ASU West is about much more than geography. We are about serving a population of students who by necessity have other things on their minds. Our students are parents, employees, neighborhood volunteers, caretakers, you name it. They want and deserve the highest quality education, while they are also giving attention to other responsibilities. Our special challenge at West is to help students integrate their multiple experiences.

That is why West has a Child Development Center, where children can learn while parents study and where sometimes the parents return as students to apply theories of child development to observations of real children learning.. That is why ASU West is committed to internships that connect the classroom with the workplace; to active, organic partnerships with the community colleges of Maricopa County: to an enhanced system of advising. That is why we are committed to voter registration and voter education. Our students are community members and we as an institution must be a good citizen of the community.

Many thanks to Lattie Coor, Ben Forsyth, and to all of you for building this treasure in plain sight. I feel privileged to lead ASU West into the next century.

Sincerely,

Elaine P. Maimon