

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

British poet W. B. Yeats argues that “education is not the filling of a bucket but the lighting of a fire.” These words describe why I regard Darton College so highly and why I, along with our faculty and staff, choose to work here. Our goal as administrators, faculty and staff is “to ignite your fire,” both in class and out while providing “a better beginning” for your college career.



Throughout your career at Darton, you will encounter faculty and staff who are exceptional with regard both to their preparation and their dedication to classroom teaching. Because you will learn in small classes, ordinarily with fewer than 25 students, not in large lecture halls, you will interact with faculty who know you personally, call you by name, and engage you in discussion, both in class and out. Such engagement will contribute significantly to the quality of education you will receive. In short, **you** and other freshmen and sophomores are our only concern. You will not be competing with upperclassmen for the time and attention of faculty and staff.

Your success relies not only upon how well you learn, but also upon the relationships you build inside and outside the classroom. You will find multiple opportunities to lead, serve, perform, and play. Whether you choose to commute or to live on campus in our new campus residential complex, I encourage you to become involved. Opportunities include student government; a variety of clubs and organizations; performances in music, theatre, and dance; a vibrant program of student activities; and multiple intramural sports. Our intramural program provides multiple athletic opportunities including table tennis, dodge ball, flag football, and other sports for students who are not intercollegiate athletes, with winning teams competing at the regional and national levels.

With 11 intercollegiate athletic sports, Darton sponsors the most comprehensive NJCAA athletic program in Georgia. At the end of the 2007-2008 year, our intercollegiate athletic program was recognized as the best NJCAA athletic program in Georgia for the second time in three years. During the year, women's soccer and women's cross-country teams won regional championships; the Cavalier golf team, which has won three national championships since 2005, won its fifth consecutive regional championship *en route* to a second place national finish. Other NJCAA sports include basketball, baseball, softball, swimming and wrestling, our youngest program which already has produced three All-Americans, including two in 2008. If you are not on the court, in the pool, or on the field, please join me in the stands as we cheer for Cavaliers.

At Darton, signs of excellence abound. For the second time in two years, Darton College has been recognized second nationally as a Top Ten Digital College by the Center for Digital Education; our online degree program has been ranked among the top 30 programs nationally (only nine positions behind the University of Phoenix), and Darton is one of 16 colleges and universities recently recognized as a Campus Technology Innovator by *Campus Technology* magazine. In each case, our competition was not with other two-year colleges but with major senior colleges and universities.

Finally, remember throughout your journey toward certification or graduation, the *College Catalog* is the official guide to our policies, procedures, academic programs, and courses. I encourage you to become familiar with its resources, to revisit it often, and to visit our Web site at [www.darton.edu](http://www.darton.edu) or contact our staff for additional information.

Welcome to Darton College, and to your better beginning!

Sincerely,  
Peter J. Sireno  
President