

President's Remarks at Nurse Pinning

Dr. Margaret L. Drugovich, President

May 20, 2022

Hartwick Nursing Class of 2022, Congratulations.

The rigor of your Hartwick course of studies is well known, and respected – on this campus, across the region, and across the country.

You have breadth as well as technical depth.

You have worked harder than many, and are more dedicated than most.

You have earned the Hartwick nursing pin and the degree that you will receive tomorrow.

I am proud of you.

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Earlier this week I was reviewing the annual Year of the Nurse report of a major New York City healthcare system. This report captured their experience in 2020 and early 2021.

I saw 90 pages of photo after photo of nurses in masks doing their work. Photo after photo of nurses in masks being with one another. Solving problems together.

There were images of super heroes superimposed as if they were looking over nurses.

I want to share with you part of one entry in this report entitled:

A shout out to everyone who is trying right now.

Trying to do the right thing. Trying to stay open.

Trying to keep going. Trying to hold on. Trying to find their flow. Trying to meet each new day.

Trying to find their balance. Trying to love themselves. Trying new things and new ways.

I see you. I'm there, too. We're in this together.

I do not know the author; it is unattributed. But I share it because it captures, for me, the essence of what I have learned about Hartwick nurses and about you, specifically.

You have really tried.

With all of the challenges of the last two years you did not give up. Your studies were as hard as they have ever been, but more complicated than ever before. You were required to find your new flow – and you did. You needed to find new ways – and you did. You needed to find a new balance – and you did. You needed to meet each new day – and you did.

You did not allow your regrets and anxiety and frustrations, real as they were, to stop you from moving forward.

You protected one another even when you were tired of giving.

You took strength from one another and shouldered your share of the responsibility.

I know that you were successful in making these adjustments. If you had not been, then you would not be here with us today.

I do not take your success for granted. I have seen members of our community who were not able to scramble up the scree covered cliffs of this experience as you have.

We have all been profoundly impacted by our experience in these last two years. But like the classes of nursing graduates before, you met the challenge. You will be – we will all be – the better for it.

I hope that your time with us at Hartwick has taught you to be even more compassionate, even more patient, even more humble, even more skilled, and even more committed to putting your patient's needs first. I hope that your experiences here have taught you to be grittier and at the same time more patient with yourself. I hope this because the world needs to heal and the world cannot heal – physically, emotionally – without you.

When you inspire, you will be inspired. When you are kind, that kindness will grow in you. When you change the life of someone for the better through your life-giving skills, your life will be changed for the better.

What you have learned cannot be unlearned; with each step forward your view of what lies ahead has been changed.

It is your turn to make it better. I trust that you will.

Your college is proud of you. I hope that you are, and will always be, proud to be a Hartwick nurse.

Congratulations.