

President's Welcome**Recorder Notes** *(submitted by Chaya Jain)*

Good morning and a very warm welcome from *Trojan Country* high atop the Appomattox River! I bring you greetings from our Board of Visitors, alumni, faculty, staff and the entire VSU community!

We are delighted that the Academy of Process Educators, a consortium of like-minded student-centered educators from across the globe, is holding its seventh annual conference on our campus!

As a passionate educator, I particularly appreciate the conference theme, "Inclusion and Opportunity: Sharing the Practices that Promote Life-long Learning and self-Growth."

During my first week at VSU in January of this year, I actually had another opportunity to get acquainted with the Process Education philosophy.

I support the belief that our learning capacity, to a large degree, is shaped ***not*** by the blessing of our birth -- but our innate curiosity as humans in striving to be our best through lifelong learning and self-growth.

Also, that the Process Education culture believes in a "growth" mindset and a promise that all students have the capacity to grow their intelligence and succeed.

In that regard, our beliefs are in perfect synchrony as our university's mission also supports students in their intellectual, moral, personal, social and spiritual growth.

Of course then, our job as educators and intellectual nurturers requires us to do our best in creating formal and informal enriched learning environments for a diverse range of learners.

As educators, our job also obligates us in making sure that we are effective in providing meaningful growth opportunities not only for our students but ourselves as well. I am pleased that the Academy's foundation is well-grounded in these critical, core principles.

I have had a chance to review the conference program and I strongly support and appreciate the Academy's efforts to promote teaching and scholarship through networking and mentoring.

Your lineup of the plenary and concurrent sessions is truly impressive and promises several practical outcomes for participants.

Considering this to be a global effort, I congratulate the organizers' in putting together such a comprehensive and beneficial program!

While in Petersburg, I hope you get a chance to enjoy our Southern hospitality in and outside of the campus!

Once again, I extend you my personal warm welcome and those of my fellow Trojans -- I wish you a very successful conference!