



# Labor Day Reflections

*"You can dream, design, and build the most wonderful place in the world,  
but it requires people to make the dream a reality."*

*-Walt Disney*



As the nation recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of our workers, as we pause to consider the harsh conditions that confronted so many as they toiled, we give thanks that our colleagues – Pepperdine employees – enjoy a special status. Over centuries and decades, the worker has moved from being treated as a less-than-human commodity to a precious asset. Thankfully, at Pepperdine, our employees enjoy a place of honor as the institution's most important resource.

Our vision is dramatic, but whether it rises to exceed our students' expectations or flops lifeless at their feet can be traced back to our employees. If our employees serve, perform, care, sacrifice, and love – yes, love – then our vision to be a preeminent Christian university is realized.

In a beautiful cycle, this very mission helps to attract and retain those employees who will best actualize our vision and support our mission. And, our mission is the source of our understanding that our employees deserve infinite dignity and respect – not contingent upon their performance, but based upon their being made in the image of God – based upon our Lord Jesus Christ sacrificially loving them.

Praise God! Praise God that we work in a place where we care for one another, recognize the transcendent role of each employee, and offer respect and dignity to one another. To all of our employees across this great institution, thank you!

Phil E. Phillips  
Vice President for Administration