An email welcoming students to the Spring 2014 semester was sent by Chancellor Lee Lambert on 1/24/14. The email highlights accreditation activity, safety enhancements, the renovated Veterans Center and the College's expanding social media presence.

To all students:
Welcome to Pima Community College. Whether you are new to PCC, attended PCC in the fall or are returning after a few years away, I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season. This Spring semester, as always, PCC is ready to help achieve your academic and professional goals.

The year ahead will be critical for the College. Long-overdue changes are taking place at each of our campuses and learning centers, as well as the District Office. As chancellor, I believe these changes are necessary and will result in a better, stronger PCC, one that can more effectively serve students, the community and the nation.

The single greatest challenge confronting PCC in 2014 is probation, a sanction imposed by our accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). You should know that our probation status does not affect our accreditation. We remain accredited; thus, transfer activities will continue as they always have, our students can apply for and receive financial aid, the integrity of our degrees and certificates remains intact, and the quality of our programs and services remains undiminished.

I can assure you that addressing probation is Job 1 at the College. A team of professionals is working closely with concerned members of our community to restore the HLC's trust in PCC, and I have the utmost confidence in our team's ability and dedication.

For more information on accreditation and probation, I encourage you to refer to the Pima Addresses Probation page of our website. And, as always, feel free to direct any questions about probation and accreditation to the Provost’s Office via Accred-Questions@pima.edu.

A couple of additional developments you should know about:

The safety of everyone at PCC is a top priority for the College, and we are constantly looking at enhancements to security. Those include the PCCAlert text-message notification system, which provides accurate information and guidance. (PCCAlert was activated in the fall; to learn more, go to the Emergencies page on our website). In addition, the College has installed in our classrooms locks that can be locked from the inside by pushing a button, and has panic buttons at high-risk locations at each
campus. Activating the panic button sends a signal to PCC Department of Public Safety dispatchers, who are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This year we also are putting the finishing touches on an expanded, renovated Veterans Center at our Downtown campus. PCC worked closely with student-veterans on the redesign of the center, which has been enlarged by 500 percent. PCC is committed to doing right to the approximately 1,300 recipients of veterans' benefits who come to PCC seeking a path to a productive civilian life. The Veterans Center is one element of that commitment. For more information, go to the Veterans Center page of our website.

And lastly, the College's social media presence continues to expand on Facebook and Twitter. Our social media is student-focused and features news-you-can-use about deadlines, events and academic and civic opportunities. To connect with PCC social media, go to the Social Media page of our website.

Spring is the season of new beginnings. It is, as the Russian writer Leo Tolstoy once observed, a "time of plans and projects." All PCC's plans and projects revolve around you, our students. You are why we exist and serving you is at the heart of our mission. Thank you for choosing PCC. I hope the Spring semester proves educationally rewarding.

Lee D. Lambert
Chancellor