Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Erica C. Holmes, Ed.D, as our new Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Services.

With a decade in higher education leadership, Erica has the combination of skills and talents Pima needs at this pivotal moment. I believe her recognized ability to make data-driven decisions and the value she places on strategic planning will make her an integral member of the College’s leadership team.

As a vice president of academic affairs, Erica has successfully led her community college through the reaffirmation of its accreditation and its enrollment management efforts, resulting in record student growth and retention. As a dean, Erica has worked to strengthen adult education, designed and built an online advising website and established partnerships with K-12 public and private schools, as well as business and industry.

Erica has forged articulation agreements with numerous four-year institutions and is knowledgeable about creating new and exciting opportunities for online learning. Her grant writing, budget and audit experience will be particularly important for Pima, as we chart a course through a new and rapidly changing economy.

Erica is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Outstanding Dean Award from The International Society of Business Disciplines.

Erica also knows what it’s like to stand in front of a classroom. Her 15 years of experience as an instructor include teaching high school-level statistics and mathematics, and college-level computer information systems, programming and web design. As a community college graduate herself, she personally appreciates the transformative role community colleges can play in our society.

Erica’s current position is Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at Kenney-King College, one of seven colleges in the City Colleges of Chicago system. At Kenney-King, which serves 14,000 students annually, Erica provided leadership and oversight of the library, academic programs, general education, foundational studies, continuing education, adult education, career programs and the childcare center.

Prior to that, she was Vice President of Academic Affairs at Halifax Community College in Weldon, N.C. Erica also has served as Dean of the School of Business at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond, Va.

Erica is a first-generation college student from South Hill, Va., a small, predominantly agricultural community in the southern part of the state. Her education journey began at Southside Virginia Community College in Alberta, Va., where she earned an Associate of Applied Science in General Studies. Erica earned her Doctorate of Education in Education Leadership from the University of Sarasota-Argosy, in Sarasota, Fla. She also has a Master of Science in Administration, Information
Erica is expected to assume her new position on July 1, 2014. Her appointment is subject to Governing Board approval.

I would like to thank the members of the search committee for their dedication and hard work. They were an indispensable part of a candidate selection and interview process that was thoughtful, open and transparent. I also must thank Dr. Zelema Harris, who has done an outstanding job as Acting Provost, leading the Provost’s Office as it oversees our efforts to reaffirm our accreditation. Her insights during this period of transition are greatly appreciated.

Lee D. Lambert
Chancellor