Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Daniel L. Kester is Pima Community College’s new Director of Veterans and Military Affiliated Services.

As director, Daniel will be responsible for strategic planning, administration and coordination of the multifaceted programs serving our more than 1,450 Veteran Education Benefit Recipients, as well as overseeing programs for active-duty military personnel and their families. Daniel will be PCC’s point of contact with the Veterans Administration and our key compliance officer for VA and state regulations regarding veterans. As you know, the College earlier this year regained its ability to certify enrollment of new Veterans Education Benefit Recipients after falling out of compliance with VA and state rules. In creating this position, we are ensuring that our student-veterans consistently receive the best-possible administrative services. The director will report to Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Development, Dr. Karrie Mitchell. Daniel currently serves as the Superintendent of the 612th Air and Space Operation Center’s Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Division at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, a top leadership role involving oversight of more than 120 military personnel and management of a facility with $58 million in assets.

Since 2008, he has been a Volunteer Military Outreach and Employer Support Representative, as part of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. He has assisted thousands of veterans in the transition from military service to employment or college. In addition, he has worked as a Career and Technical Education Program Educator in the Tucson Unified School District and a Career Counselor at The University of Arizona.

Daniel’s knowledge of the needs and expectations of PCC’s student-veterans is deep. In earning a Ph.D. in Post-Secondary and Adult Education from Capella University, Daniel wrote a doctoral dissertation analyzing our student-veterans’ career choices and perceptions of service. It also should be noted that Daniel’s postsecondary education journey started at a community college. Daniel received an Associate’s Degree in Liberal Arts from City Colleges of Chicago. He also has a Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering Technology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and a Master’s Degree in Education from the University of Phoenix.

Daniel’s first day at PCC will be Oct. 13, pending approval by the PCC Governing Board. Please join me in welcoming him to the College.

Lee D. Lambert,
Chancellor