Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Ricardo Castro Salazar is the College’s Acting Vice President for International Development.

Strengthening global education at PCC has been a priority for me since I assumed the chancellorship 18 months ago, and is one of my goals in 2014-15. The new position of Vice President for International Development will be instrumental in this effort.

As acting VP, Ricardo will lead the International Student Development Office, which supports the success of our international students. The position will work closely with a new task force charged with developing a plan aimed at deepening our commitment to internationalizing PCC for the benefit of our students, faculty, staff and the community we serve. The acting VP also will oversee the recruitment of international students, international marketing and promotion, and will work to infuse our classrooms and extracurricular activities with a global perspective.

PCC once enjoyed a robust international student program. With the assistance of Ricardo and others, our goal is to not only rebuild that program but to take it to new heights. The timing for such an endeavor could not be better. In our increasingly complex and interconnected world, a global approach to higher education is no longer an option. It is an imperative with profound academic, societal and financial implications.

Ricardo’s education and experience make him ideally suited for the challenge before us. He is a well-respected member of the international community and a passionate advocate for closer ties with other countries, particularly Mexico. He is member of the advisory board of the Institute of Mexicans Abroad, and played a key role in the receipt by the PCC Foundation of a $90,000 grant from the institute that supports attainment of postsecondary education by Mexican immigrants and Americans of Mexican origin at PCC. In addition, Ricardo’s efforts were fundamental in bringing 49 Mexican students to PCC this semester to pursue STEM studies through the SEP-Bécalos-Santander Universidades International Program. Since 2010, he has been an associate researcher at The University of Arizona Center for Latin American Studies.

Ricardo has held numerous positions since joining the College in 1994. Currently, he is a faculty member in Political Science and History. Previously, he served as Division Dean of Instruction, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor, Business Department Chair, and Faculty and Lead Faculty in International Business Studies.

Ricardo embodies the global reach of his new post. He has lived and studied in Mexico, Holland, Brazil, Canada, China and the United Kingdom, and has taught at higher education institutions in the three NAFTA nations. Ricardo has been published in English and Spanish in numerous journals and has been a frequent speaker in national and international conferences.
He received a Doctorate of Education from Durham University in Durham, United Kingdom. He has a master’s degree in Education from La Salle University, a master’s degree in International Relations from the University of Amsterdam and a Master’s degree in Latin American Studies from The University of Arizona. Ricardo received a Postgraduate Degree in Education from Centro de Estudios en Educación Joaquin Cordero Buenrostro, and a bachelor’s degree in Management from the Technological Institute of Sonora.

The Acting Vice President of International Development will report to Dr. Lou Albert, president of our West Campus. He is scheduled to begin his new duties early next year. Please join me in welcoming him to a new, multifaceted and exciting position.

Lee D. Lambert,
Chancellor