Colleagues,

One of the College’s priorities is that employees, students and the community are made aware of the challenges facing PCC. In this spirit, Provost Holmes informed you of concerns raised by a U.S. Department of Education Program Review of our administration of Federal Title IV student aid, and our response to the review.

As the semester begins, I am writing to update you that PCC has corrected all errors identified in the Department’s Program Review, and that we retain the capability to disburse student financial aid.

At the direction of the Department, the College returned $6,243.00 in incorrectly disbursed student aid. To put that figure into perspective, PCC disbursed more than $80 million over the past two years, the period covered in the Department of Education’s June review. There has been no indication from Federal Student Aid (FSA) that we will be required to return additional funds.

Additionally, the College also has received no direction from FSA that we review any other records, or that FSA will be returning for a follow-up audit. Hopefully, this indicates that we have successfully remedied the problems cited in the audit.

The College is required to apply for recertification of our participation in Title IV programs no later than March 31, 2015, but this is not tied to the Program Review findings. Higher education institutions are approved to participate in a six-year cycle and PCC’s cycle ends in June 2015.

In the College’s recertification application, we will indicate that all Title IV regulations are being appropriately followed and adhered to, and that we have appropriate systems, policies and procedures in place to remain in compliance. Because of the steps taken since the review, the College fully expects to receive approval to continue offering financial aid to our students.

Transparency is a cornerstone of our interactions with the Department of Education, the Higher Learning Commission, and all entities overseeing our operations. My commitment to it is unwavering and the reason is straightforward: I firmly believe that by being open and honest with each other and the community we serve, we will help build PCC into one of our nation’s premier community colleges. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

Lee D. Lambert,
Chancellor