Colleagues,

Just before dawn on Saturday, March 7, Arizona legislators voted to approve a budget for Fiscal Year 2016 that aims to compensate for a deficit of approximately $1 billion in expected revenue by making a number of draconian cuts to services for Arizona’s residents. Even more unfortunate is the fact that many of these cuts were made to our already struggling education system, including our institutions of higher learning.

I am extremely disappointed to report to you that the new budget eliminates ALL state funding for Pima Community College, as well as for the Maricopa community colleges, reducing our three primary revenue streams to two with the stroke of a pen. At this point it appears that we will be spared from immediate changes to the expenditure limitation and from adverse impacts from the elimination of state support for the homeowner’s tax rebate.

As I explained in my Pima-all message several days ago, the budget planning process we put in place in 2014 anticipated cuts to our state allocation to an eventual zero sum. However, we did not expect that this would happen all at once. We will work diligently to develop a budget that ensures that we are able to serve our students and our community, maintain the high quality programs you have come to expect, and provide affordable and modern training opportunities for Arizona’s future workforce.

The College will continue to update you as we grapple with this new reality.

May I take this opportunity to remind you that you are invited to attend one of the upcoming presentations on PCC’s budget and finances that David Bea, Executive Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, and I are giving. Now, more than ever, it is important that you are privy to the latest information we have, and that you have an opportunity to ask questions and express your concerns.

The options include:

- March 9, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Downtown Campus Amethyst Room
- March 10, 4-5 p.m., Desert Vista Campus Ocotillo Room
- March 24, 3:30-4:30 p.m., 29th Street Coalition Center Aurora Room
- March 25, 3:30-4:30 p.m., West Campus JG05
- April 2, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Northwest Campus A207
- April 6, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Community Campus A109/112
- April 7, 10-11 a.m., Maintenance & Security Conference Room MS 105

Together, we can meet this challenge. I sincerely hope to see you there.

Lee D. Lambert,
Chancellor