Colleagues,

It has been a phenomenal year for Pima Community College. It’s heartening to see our employees working together to focus on our institutional North Star of student success, community engagement and diversity. Our commitment to students comes to life at this time of year, when members of the Class of 2015 realize the goal they have been striving for. Tonight’s graduation is a landmark for the more than 3,700 students eligible to receive degrees and certificates. Every PCC employee can take a measure of satisfaction from their achievements, and I thank you for your hard work and dedication. The learning that takes place at this school could not happen without you.

Tonight’s ceremony at the Tucson Convention Center, along with recognitions including Multicultural Convocation, Honors Convocation, High School Equivalency graduation, pinning ceremonies for Nursing and Dental Hygiene students, and Fire Science and Law Enforcement Academy recognitions, demonstrates that no matter where students are on their education journey, PCC can help them succeed.

The past year has been pivotal in many ways. Under the leadership of the Provost’s Office, and thanks to the efforts of hundreds of employees, the Higher Learning Commission has removed PCC from Probation and placed us on Notice. Notice means the College is in compliance with the HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation, but remains at risk of being out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and the Core Components. As part of our work to gain the highest level of confidence from the HLC, we have strengthened our strategic planning, and are progressing with initiatives in developmental education, as well as online and global education. [I will share more information with you and our constituents next week when the College releases my 2015 Report to the Community.]

Please understand that these and other endeavors will be full of twists and turns as we exchange ideas, break down institutional barriers to success, and receive new information and perspectives. PCC is a very dynamic environment which should adapt to change and alter its direction nimbly. Nothing is written in stone.

Looking ahead, All College Day is scheduled for Friday, August 21– three months from today.

Once again, congratulations on the progress we have made this year. Enjoy your summer, and I look forward to working with you to build a Pima that puts students first and makes our community proud.

Lee D. Lambert,
Chancellor