



Susan Carleo, PhD
President

August 2011

Dear Campus Community,

Welcome to the 2011-12 academic year. I look forward to talking with all of you throughout the year. In the mean time, here is a short update.

HIRING FACULTY

Sadly, our budget challenges prohibited us from hiring any new faculty this summer. However, we are fortunate to have a strong cadre of faculty, staff and administrators at Valley. As we begin this year I am certain we will be able to carry out the work of the college with pride.

REVITALIZING VALLEY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

- The Family Resource Center, located next to the new Child Development Center and Child Development Department, is now open and fully operational.
- The renewed parking lot **D**, covered with Photo-Voltaic canopies, is now ready for use.
- The renewed parking lot **A**, landscaped and enhances with a new college marquee, is now ready for use.
- The Library and Academic Resource Center (LARC) construction continues. Expected completion is spring 2012.
- The Media Arts-Performing Arts (MAPA) building plans are complete. We expect to break ground in a few months.
- The Athletics Training Facility plans are complete. We expect to break ground in a few months.
- The ADA improvements to grounds and buildings continue. Many projects are now complete and more will be done next summer.
- Final design work is under way for our Parking Structure, Monarch Center/Student Union.
- Design work is under way for our Fulton Gateway (Job Training/Admin.) Building, Community Services/Athletics Building, Campus Center Renovations, and other small projects.

LINKING PLANNING AND BUDGET

Our one-year-old shared governance model was modified in June at our shared governance retreat. Input from all constituent groups (faculty, staff, students and administration) has led to improvements that are now posted on our web site. As we continue to develop our ability to use data, analysis and planning we will make better decisions for Valley. This work will continue as a primary focus for our spring 2013 comprehensive accreditation visit.

FUNDING AND ENROLLMENT

We began 2010-11 year with a \$51.4M budget and a \$4-6 million gap, we ended with a \$315,600 deficit. We are beginning this year with a \$49M budget and a \$2.5-3M gap. Our district repayment of prior debt has been deferred for the time being. We met our 2010-11 enrollment target and we have been “downsized” for 2011-12. We are still turning students away. The directive from the district for 2011-12: do not exceed your allocation (\$49M) and meet your enrollment target (12,457 FTES).

On a positive note, Valley continues to be successful in our competition for grant funds. These funds allow us to carry out many projects that would otherwise not exist. Our Grants committee will continue reviewing our efforts as we seek new funding sources.

NEW INITIATIVES TO ENSURE STUDENT SUCCESS

This year marks the beginning of a new 3-year student success initiative for Valley. We have joined the national effort known as Achieving the Dream. As one of 190 community colleges throughout the country we will have the opportunity to study our entire student population so we can develop and implement changes that will help us **Prepare All Students for Success**. On opening day you will begin to hear about **P.A.S.S. LAVC**, our version of Achieving the Dream.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Valley College. Have a successful 2011-12.