

From: Gribbons, Barry C <GRIBBOBC@LAVC.EDU>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 4:17 PM
Subject: Welcome Back

Dear Monarchs,

Thank you for the warm welcome I received over the past two weeks. On Opening Day, I shared that I received a note that simply read, "Dr. Gribbons, Welcome Home." The note perfectly captured how I have been greeted and how I feel. I deeply appreciate the kind welcome. Thank you!

We have a great foundation at Valley and will continue to build on the momentum from the hard work that took place over the past few years. Physically, the campus will continue to evolve as we say good-bye to our bungalows, which have had a very long history at the College. We also continue to make progress with infrastructure projects and the Valley Academic and Cultural Center. In addition to these physical changes, we will continue the important work of the Guided Pathways framework, enrollment management, AB 705 implementation, and much more. We also will be working on a Comprehensive Plan, which is required of all California Community Colleges by May 2020.

With all of these efforts, I look forward to learning more about your programs, goals, and challenges. On September 5, I will be hosting an Open House in the President's Office from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. I hope you are able to stop by to say hello. I also will be hosting an Open Forum on Thursday, October 17 from 1:15 pm to 3:45 pm. The Open Forums will be an opportunity for members of the campus community to share ideas, ask questions, or express any concerns that they might have. Complementing the Open Forums, I will also hold open Faculty, Staff and Student office hours as follows:

Students: Wednesday, September 25, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (location TBA). (Faculty and staff, please feel free to inform students of this date and time).

Staff: Thursday, September 26, from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm in the President's Office

Faculty: Thursday, September 26, from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm (location TBA)

My hope is that you will feel comfortable sharing any concerns you have and ideas for change. I especially appreciate listening to and welcome perspectives that might be different than my own. One of my core beliefs is that sharing a rich diversity of perspectives will result in our greatest advances in student access, equity, and success.

Lastly, please send me a note with any upcoming events that your department has this year, any recognitions you may have received, or inspirational stories from our students. Hearing from some of our students, faculty members, staff, and administrators over the past two weeks has been great and underscores what we all know: Valley is a very special place. I want to make sure that I get as many of your events on my calendar as I can possibly attend. I also want to

regularly share your amazing stories with the District and our community. In addition to giving you the recognition you deserve, I think that this will serve to inspire others.

Again, thank you for the incredibly warm welcome you have extended to me and as we start our 70th Year, Welcome Home, Monarchs!

Barry Gribbons

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