Dear River Valley,

As Women’s History Month draws to a close, let us recognize and salute the contributions of women across the world making efforts daily to improve the human condition.

River Valley Community College is planning for its first formal Presidential Inauguration. The Presidential Inaugural Committees are forming and you are invited to sign up. A presidential inauguration offers an institution a chance to connect with all of its constituencies, and can be used to set the tone for what’s to come in the life of an institution. Despite the many variables that can shape inaugural events, most tend to follow one of three models, emphasizing change, stability, or innovation.

The Inaugural Week is September 15th - 19th with the full college participating in the installation scheduled for the 19th. There will be a variety of events held throughout the week including hosting the Walter R. Peterson Scholarship Dinner honoring Barbara Couch the Vice President of Corporate Responsibility at Hypertherm, Inc., a Day of Service, Open Houses, a Tribute to Veterans, an Alumni Reception and a Spotlight on Innovation and Excellence. Throughout the next several weeks you will receive Inaugural updates to help us prepare for this special occasion for River Valley Community College. If you are interested in contributing and or serving on any of the events above please contact Dr. Leigh Marthe and Jillian Mulloy for more information.

Kudos to the Math and Science Departments for the development of a new Associate of Science degree in Mathematics and Science created in response to local and global demands for increased student proficiency in the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Graduates will be prepared to transfer to STEM majors at four-year institutions or enter the workforce in positions such as laboratory, engineering, and field technicians. Congratulations to Martha Mott and WorkReadyNH for receiving a BOB (Best of Business) Award from NH Business Review for the “Best effort to upgrade NH’s Workforce.” Great Job to Robert Stillings, Program Director for TAACCCT, who is launching the first Advisory group for his program. And, Kudos to Professor Kenneth Czechowicz as he has been appointed the interim program director for Polysomnographic Technology.

I would like to issue a special thank you to all faculty and staff who participated at the Home Show in Lebanon. Donald and I thoroughly enjoyed our time at the show and meeting many community members. I had the opportunity to serve as Guest Instructor for Principles of Management and Self Care & Stress Management. I had a wonderful time working with such talented groups of students and thank Allen Damren and Martha Mott for the invitation to visit. I also had the opportunity to meet with students at the Keene Academic Center to hear their ideas for college improvements.

Thank you all for the good work you do every day as we work to lift and sustain the community through collaboration and partnerships.

Academically Yours,

Alicia B. Harvey-Smith, Ph.D.