River Valley Community College
Envisioning The Future – Our Future By Design

Envisioning A Year of Excellence
The Path Forward
Alicia B. Harvey-Smith, Ph.D. President

The Path Forward is aligned with purpose
And with our mission to serve
It will be determined not only by vision
But by our ability to see, understand and navigate with certainty
Through uncertain times, shifting tides and the changing winds
That are engulfing the landscape of Higher Education
The ability to be open and responsive to change
Will determine those who will sustain
I believe the Path Forward will be led by those who
Listen, Plan, Focus, Collaborate, Innovate and Celebrate

Happy New Year and Good-Morning,

As I thought about today and our first All College Forum for the New Year, I immediately thought it would be important for us to think collectively about our path forward with renewed excitement and commitment given the mounting shifts in the higher education landscape, while simultaneously reflecting on the past year in celebration of the lessons learned through our challenges, opportunities and successes.

John Maxwell, a prominent writer on inspirational leadership often speaks about the importance of finding one’s path and as an institution with a noble purpose and mission to “change lives and transform society”, it is important to start the year with this as a focus not doing so would make it pretty difficult to achieve our purpose or mission.
Every destiny has a pathway to it and that path is defined by goals and purpose. Institutions that take their eyes off of the prize, away from their purpose or mission very often fall short of achieving the success they desire.

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And our mission to serve

River Valley Community College is a beacon of hope to so many as a result, we must focus our attention on assuring that we provide the very best and bring our best selves, thinking and best effort to this critical work in order to assure that we effectively meet the needs of our students and of those we serve.

The challenges being faced by colleges in New England and throughout the country are not new and they are not going away and we will continually reflect, adjust and respond. In the New Year, I need each of you to give more and support each other at a higher level and be willing to examine at a deeper level the challenges we face and improve River Valley Community College at every level.

We will continue to identify the challenges occurring across the landscape and we will respond, we will push forward with urgency, while celebrating our successes each step of the way because we know that our path forward will be:

Determined not only by vision
But by our ability to see
Understand and navigate with certainty
Through uncertain times, shifting tides and the changing winds
That are engulfing the landscape of Higher Education.

River Valley Community College will listen to our students, our community and each other to support our teaching and learning environment. We will plan and
use data to inform our decisions. We will focus our attention on outcomes, collaborate to expand our reach, innovate to provide our students cutting edge experiences in and out of the classroom and we will celebrate as a community.

The ability to be open and responsive to change

Will determine those who will sustain

I am reminded that we cannot reach the path forward if we forget the power of our actions and words in our treatment of each other, remembering, that the culture that we seek to build is based on care and will enable our greater success.

As President, I continue to encourage your passion, optimism, creativity and determination to achieve positive outcomes, I promise to continue to listen, to explore and to continue to encourage each of you every day as we move closer our goals.

We will plan as a college, discuss difficult issues openly and respond in a manner that will always move us closer to the path forward in fulfillment of our benchmarks.

Our decisions will be guided by what is in the best interest of our students and in response to “How does every decision, policy and action improve or expand learning and how do we know?”

These simple questions will guarantee our ability to measure and focus our efforts on our strategic directions: Student Access, Student Success, Teaching and Learning and Sustainability.

I hope that you will join me in “Envisioning a Future by Our Design, Envisioning A Year of Excellence as River Valley Community College journeys on the Path Forward. Thank You!

At this time, I would like to share some key highlights from last year.