Greetings River Valley Community,

This President's Message serves as the final for this academic year. It's hard to believe time has gone by so quickly. Coming to Claremont and becoming the President of River Valley has been one of the best decisions and experiences of my academic career. I am so proud of the big work that we have done together in such a small amount of time.

Much like our students, I feel as if I am graduating this year and will certainly treasure each moment. I remain confident that the best is yet to come.

As the academic year draws to a close and we excitedly prepare for a myriad of end of year activities, I cannot help but reflect on all of the transformations occurring around us, new articulation agreements, new partnerships, new collaborations, new challenges and yes, new opportunities.

River Valley has new agreements with Granite State College (GSC) supporting a co-location in downtown Claremont and providing greater access and opportunity to students. We are currently mapping four programs, allowing a seamless transition from an Associate's Degree through to a Master's Degree at one convenient location.

The new agreement with the New Hampshire Institute of Art will allow River Valley Community College students completing our Creative Writing Program to transfer seamlessly for further study in this area. Our exciting new partnership with Colby Sawyer College will also expand access and opportunity for our students wishing to transfer and complete further studies in a variety of exciting areas. Each of these exciting opportunities will also include impressive scholarships to support matriculation.

I am also pleased to share our newest workforce development partnership with Sturm Ruger, further branding River Valley Community College as a trainer of choice, promoting River Valley Community College Bootcamps and bringing important revenue dollars to our institution. I extend special Kudos to each faculty and staff person involved in these significant efforts.

When we open our doors in the fall, our campus will look very different as we continue to transform our learning space from new Faculty Offices and Falcon Room and let's not forget the exciting new Student Success Center that serves as an important resource for academic life on campus.

As we continue to assess and develop an infrastructure that will sustain our growth and development, new members will join our team in efforts to fulfill our mission of providing affordable, quality education and training to our community. This is all very exciting.
I wish to extend a big thank you to Dr. Henderson for all of the hard-work and support that she has provided me and River Valley Community College in her role as Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs. I also wish to welcome Dr. Vincent Mumford in his new capacity as Vice President of Academic Affairs helping us to ride the wave to the next level. I deeply thank Bob Baron, as well, for his efforts as Chief Business Affairs Officer. The commitment and expertise he brought to the role has significantly benefitted River Valley Community College.

In the last two weeks, I have had the opportunity to attend and speak to our Phi Theta Kappa Inductees and shared with them that the "bar is raised, standards are high, and expectations are great and within their reach".

I share those same sentiments with each of you as we prepare for our 46th Commencement at River Valley Community College, "the expectations are great and within our reach".

As I sit signing each degree being awarded, I see them as representing a new beginning for our graduates, each of whom has the ability through their time and talent to change the world, to make a difference through the lessons learned here at River Valley Community College.

This summer will be one of intense planning and development, expansion of partnerships and positioning for River Valley Community College. Next semester, we host the Walter Peterson Fundraiser and launch our first ever scholarship fundraiser, "A Year of Giving", with a goal of raising one million dollars over the course of the year. I invite all faculty and staff to financially support our students through these two initiatives in their own way. We will also have the first presidential installation and inauguration in the history of the College. Please watch your emails throughout the summer for important updates.

In closing, I ask that you continue to reflect and commit to being a force for positive change at our institution. River Valley Community College has set a target of enrolling a minimum of 250 new full time students for fall 2014, in addition to the average number of students typically brought in for fall semesters. This is not an insurmountable goal and is an achievable target, if we each commit to identifying and recruiting at-least 5 new students. This target takes into account our need to also retain our current students as retention is equally as important to our sustainability.

Thank you for an amazing academic year of gains for River Valley Community College, for new opportunities for our students and for embracing the vision and future that we all are accountable for designing.

Academically Yours,

Alicia B. Harvey-Smith, Ph.D.