Dear River Valley Family,

As I pen this special holiday President’s Message, I wish that this holiday season and all that it represents will bring joy and contentment to each of you and your families. I hope that each new day will surround you with moments to cherish and an abundance of love. May this Christmas and every New Year provide you prosperity, goodwill, friendship, peace and tranquility.

As we come together as a college community to celebrate this joyous season, let us also pause to remember and to extend help where possible to those who are less fortunate than ourselves and to simultaneously offer heartfelt gratitude for the many things for which we are truly grateful.

As River Valley Community College embraces the New Year with excitement and passion, let us reflect on our many successes and achievements this year: more than a 5% increase in enrollment, as nationally college enrollments are down, increased early college enrollment by more than 30%, successful co-location with Granite State, where students are able study and stay in NH and progress seamlessly from the Associates through Masters degrees in designated programs, increased articulation agreements, successful program accreditations, significant strides in our H1B and TAAACCCT Grants.

We conclude 2014 with new early college MOUs with the following high schools: Fall Mountain Regional, Lebanon, Monadnock Regional, Newport, Stevens, Sunapee and Mount Royal Academy, expanded Business and Industry Partnerships and most importantly, growing as a community focused and poised for even greater excellence. In the New Year, we will launch a campaign to expand our reach into Vermont and Massachusetts by offering in state tuition to all towns within a 50 mile radius of our campuses. Much work has been done and there is still more work to do. I am more confident than ever that we will do it and together we will lift and together we will sustain!

In the New Year, we will focus our efforts on Student Access, Student Success, Teaching & Learning and Sustainability and will continue to build our infrastructure by having the right people, in the right seats, with the right tools, moving in the same direction. I encourage you to envision the possibilities that lie before us. I ask for your commitment, trust and belief in RVCC and to making 2015, the most amazing year ever! My family and I wish you a Merry Christmas and happy New Year and in the great words of Dr. Seuss from How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

"It came without ribbons! It came without tags! It came without packages, boxes or bags!... Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! "Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!"

Thank you for all that you do to make River Valley Community College mean a little bit more!

Academically yours,
Alicia B. Harvey-Smith, Ph.D.
President