March 27, 2015

“Genius is 1% talent and 99% hard work.”  
— Albert Einstein

Dear River Valley Family,

As a body of extremely talented people, we are certainly proving Einstein’s quote true as we continue to work hard to respond to the many exciting opportunities available to us with the goal of making smart and informed decisions. There was great excitement at our All College Forum and I encourage each of you to maintain the momentum. I also hope you found it helpful to learn of the significant progress we are making with key projects such as: River Valley Commons Collegiate Housing, establishing a Lebanon Academic Center of Excellence, responding to new grant opportunities, completing the next steps in strategic planning, expanding fundraising efforts and business & industry partnerships and our continued efforts to prepare for our NEASC Focused Visit. Kudos to everyone who has assisted in our preparation and a special thank you to Dr. Alan Hogenmiller for shepherding this process and Jillian E. Davis for her tireless efforts to prepare and present exhibits. The team arrives on Sunday March 29th and will conclude their visit on Tuesday, March 31st with an exit meeting at 10:00 a.m. in room 174. The entire college is invited to join me at the exit meeting.

The energy of innovation and change is allowing us to carefully and deliberately frame the future for River Valley Community College. As we continue to explore how we will strategically expand student access, student success, improve the teaching and learning environment and create a viable plan for sustainability, it will be critical for us to ask and answer the hard questions and for us to fully commit to our mission and vision of providing an optimum learning experience to students in an environment that is focused on improving and expanding learning and measuring our success.

I’d like to announce again the honorees of this year’s 2015 Campus Compact for NH Presidents’ Awards. The Presidents’ Leadership Award goes to Ruzzel Zullo, a student in our Creative Writing program who has prioritized community outreach, civic engagement, and strong work ethics in his life. The Presidents’ Good Steward Award goes to Dr. Leigh Marthe as she works hard to cultivate the promise of transformative change through education. And, the Presidents’ Community Partner Award goes to Peter Wright and Valley Regional Healthcare for their partnership with River Valley Community College and their strong community involvement in the Greater Claremont Area. I invite you to share congratulations with these honorees for their community service. Congratulations again to all who submitted Innovation Grant Applications and for stepping up to this challenge. In closing, I am so proud of each of you participating in the Wellness Initiative 50 to Fit Challenge, Weight Watchers or taking personal steps towards a healthier lifestyle. It was wonderful celebrating your hard work. You continue to inspire me! Kudos to Professor Robin Saunders for your creative and fun awards!

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