Dear River Valley Community College Family,

We are off to a roaring start to the spring 2016 semester. Throughout 2016, we will continue our efforts to make improvements to our processes and systems and will move fast forward to fill critical vacancies existing in our administrative structure. Much thanks to those of you who have stepped forward to serve on search committees. The work that you will do is critical to the future of River Valley Community College.

We continue to look forward to the innovative work coming from the Guided Pathways Teams under the leadership of Dr. Susan Henderson, Kathy Odell-Carlson and Dr. Leigh Marthe to improve both our Entry and Student Support Services areas. This will prove critical to both the successful enrollment and retention of our students.

The College’s Administration looks forward to continuing to work together in partnership with our community to build a stronger college for the community and students we serve and I personally remain committed to creating a sustainable institution with a strong infrastructure and to making decisions that are in the best interest of our students and college. I invite your continued input and encourage you to stop in, to share a concern, to share a solution, or to simply share an idea. We will be continuing with our Chat and Chew Sessions with the President and I encourage you to also use this time to share your ideas.

As one college, I encourage each of you to work together to identify both challenges and solutions as each of us is equally accountable for improving the teaching, learning and working environment at River Valley Community College. It is my hope that we will work together to create a more caring institutional culture for our entire community as we stay focused on the important work before us.

River Valley Community College continues to demonstrate stable enrollment growth and we are pleased to share that our new site in Lebanon opened on schedule and successfully exceeded initial enrollment projections. A special thanks to everyone involved in this significant effort, especially Matthew Perron and our Facilities Team.

For the first time in the College’s history, we have a strong reserve in place to support unplanned emergencies and strategic initiatives and have successfully raised much needed scholarship funds for our students and will begin making awards, as scheduled, in fall 2016. I wish to extend a special thank you to Julia Dower for leading this important committee for our college.
Our work throughout this next academic phase will include:

1. Continuing efforts to build community and address any community concerns viewed as barriers
2. Filling critical institutional vacancies in the Administration and other critical areas
3. Completing the Draft of River Valley Community College’s Strategic Plan “Envisioning the Future” 2016-2020
4. Initiating Comprehensive Preparation for the NEASC Self Study and spring 2018 Site Visit
5. Continuing planning efforts to grow River Valley Community College in Lebanon and complete CDBG Job Creation efforts in Partnership with Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
6. Continuing the assessment of progress on NEASC Projections
7. Selecting Curriculum Models for Guided Pathways
8. Evaluating Student Success Systems and Processes

I believe that we can and will thrive as a community if we work together as a community, consciously removing barriers and silos that prevent our success, and operating as one college and one community. Thank you for being a part of River Valley’s future and committing to its forward movement. I am confident that this can indeed be our best year ever!

PUSHING FORWARD

Pushing forward - no longer paralyzed by the past
Claiming the future - shaping it together
One community and one college – the only way it will last
Celebrating lessons learned, as we grow and develop and change
Offering our best gifts - Best selves - Best solutions
Challenges to overcome - together
Each with a job to do
No small conversations
Diminishing us with each word
Noting that we are what we say and we are what we do
Granting permission to be happy, kind and grateful
Pushing forward - past the fear created within us

Push passed it
To embrace our mission as never before
Pushing forward
Learning together
Each working in alignment
Learning from the past but not repeating it
Pushing forward towards a beautiful future
A mosaic of systems, processes and people
Caring about the entire community
No separation as one college
Embracing the vision
Creating a future by our design
As we together Push Forward………

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