Dear River Valley Community College Family,

As a group of people interdependently working together with a common vision of transforming lives through an innovative, rigorous, and compassionate approach to education, we have the opportunity to make a difference in our community today and for years to come. Our work is truly transformational. Despite recent challenges, I remain steadfast in my resolve to lead this institution towards the future we are designing. As I have previously, I thank each of you for the role you play in moving our college forward. Many successful outcomes have already been achieved and many more opportunities remain on the horizon. I look forward, with great anticipation, at strengthening our community as we each focus on improving our own individual accountabilities in the interests of the success of our students now and into the future.

I would like to thank Chancellor Gittell for accepting my invitation to speak at our most recent All College Collaborative Meeting. His support and confidence in the good work happening at RVCC is greatly appreciated. I especially value his comment about how a byproduct of moving quickly towards new opportunities is that a light will shine on existing gaps. I see this light as an opportunity to refine our practices as we work to continuously improve our institution in service to our community. I would also like to thank Richie Coladarci, Associate Vice Chancellor of HR Planning and Development, for detailing the action items that we designed to move RVCC forward and for supporting of our upcoming searches.

Also, I would like to thank those lending their time, efforts and perspectives to our various senior leadership searches. We are hiring for the future of the institution as we fill these key vacancies. The search committee chairs/co-chairs are as follows:

⇒ VP, Academic Affairs: Susan Henderson (Co-Chair), Bill McIntyre-NCC (Co-Chair)
⇒ VP, Student and Community Affairs: Lizbeth Gonzalez-NCC (Chair), Richie Coladarci-System (Co-Chair)
⇒ Business Affairs Officer (CFO): Kristyn Van Ostern-System (Chair)
⇒ AVPAA-Lebanon: Patricia Shinn (Co-Chair), Richie Coladarci-System (Co-Chair)
⇒ AVPAA-Keene: Kathleen Odell-Carlson (Chair)

I will never forget receiving the letter during my first week as President of River Valley Community College that informed me of our loss of accreditation for our Nursing Program. Conversely, I will also never forget the exceptional work done by Dr. Patricia Shinn and her team with the full support of the institution to regain a recommendation for full accreditation at record pace and with exemplary results. I extend kudos to the Nursing Department on a very successful visit and appreciation to the visiting team for their insight and recommendations.

When you are a member of a community you reap both the benefits and opportunities of membership. A variety of experiences and perspectives can allow for development of the best ideas, solutions and creativity. Being a member of a community can also invite conflict due to the nature of differing approaches and opinions. Whichever way the pendulum may swing, we need to be respectful and make an effort to hear and understand the voices of others. We are all accountable for our actions and the expectation is that each of us will portray a high standard of professionalism, civility and respect. As we continue forward, our institution will keep evolving towards the great opportunities ahead of us. I invite you to speak with me regarding any questions or feedback you may have.

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