

EOY 2010...

Good afternoon. Thank you Dr. Glasper for being a part of this afternoon's end of the year celebration. Working closely with you for the last 18 months, I have a great appreciation and understanding of your leadership, passion for student success, trouble shooting, crisis management and successful navigation of the political complexities of our Board, outside consultants, and the State legislature on behalf of PVCC. Thank you.

First off, let us all take a moment to thank our front line staff who keep this college running; our staff that day in and day out make first impressions and skillfully serve students - much of the time without recognition – would all of the division chair administrative assistants, student affairs and administrative services front line staff, and M and O staff stand up and be recognized.

Also it is with pride that I acknowledge and thank our faculty. I have had the pleasure of seeing the work of many of our faculty first hand – either while visiting a classroom, observing student work, or vicariously through the stories shared by our students all of which attest to exemplary teaching. Thank you.

Finally please allow me the personal privilege to offer my thanks to the team of leaders that I work with closely on a daily basis – Mary Lou Mosley, Jackie Askin, Shirley Green, Paul Golisch, Denise DiGianfilippo, Bill Hart, Julia Devous, and Alexis Sharif. I also need to publically thank Rick Vaughn, Corey Loucy, Fred Reill, Mike Crimi, and Elizabeth Buckton whom I worked with very closely on issues of policy and shared governance.

We have come a long way since August 17 when we kicked off the academic year with our Fall Convocation. Since then we have offered over 2600 course sections with over 50,000 student enrollments serving over 18,000 students – a record enrollment year for PVCC. We also opened a state of the art Life Sciences Building (that I would put up against any university facility), opened our first new campus site at Black Mountain, began renovation on the 65,000 square foot Q Building, launched a District recognized new adjunct faculty professional development program, and I believe experienced noticeably increased levels of student engagement. All of these good works were accomplished while the District systems were undergoing a substantial review by an outside consultant, while the

College was conducting a presidential search, and while the economy continued to play havoc with the future stability and sustainability of our state aid. We should be proud of our collective good work this year.

I'd like to turn now for a few minutes to the Focus on 2014 project.

The year 2014 is very important for PVCC in that: we will be going through the process to reaffirm our accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission; the capital bond program ends; and in 2014 we are slated to begin phase II construction at the Black Mountain site.

And as many of you know, as a result of PVCC experiencing organizational change about every two years over the last ten years – our major building block systems have lost their focus, alignment – and in some cases organizational energy.

The Focus on 2014 Steering and Work Teams will bring forward, by August, recommendations to refresh, renew, and recharge our strategic planning, automated planning and budgeting, program review, and institutional effectiveness systems. In addition, we will address the question: Is our organizational structure aligned so we can do our best work?

Focus on 2014 recommendations will be shared with the College in August during Learning Week and through additional Town Halls in September. I am thankful that Patti Marsh and Mary Lou Mosley are co-chairing this project. I would also like to recognize the Steering Team Members: Ryan Martin, Jim Rubin, Felicia Ramirez, Christie Colunga, Sandy McDill, Rick Vaughn, Corey Loucy, Norma Chandler, Greg Silcox, Shirley Green, and Jackie Askin. Would they all stand and be recognized. I have the highest level of trust that this process and the teams that we have engaged will deliver recommendations that will prepare PVCC to move to the next level.

While 2014 remains a seminal year for the College, the underlying purpose of improving these systems is to ensure that every day students have the highest probability to be successful as learners and accomplish their educational and career goals.

Reconvening in the fall, our renewed strategic planning, budgeting, and institutional effectiveness processes will help us answer the following questions:

How do we define excellent or exemplary levels of student success? How do we set institutional priorities to achieve excellent or exemplary levels of student success? How will we know? And - How good do we want to be?

Throughout the summer, the work of the teams will be posted on the Focus on 2014 web site.

My work this summer will be aligned with the leadership directions of: student success; bringing learning alive; and expanding our community of learners. As part of the presidential search process, I prepared a draft document that outlined opportunities in each of these areas and I will share this draft with the Strategic Planning Team in the fall for review, input and alignment for future consideration. Let me provide just a sample of what excites me about future possibilities for PVCC: 1) as the only compass point in the Valley with no ASU physical presence, we can become an exemplary gateway for on-site bachelor degree completion through two-plus-two and three- plus-one partnership programs with NAU and possibly U of A; 2) we can lead the way to increase the number of students completing degrees through effective implementation of the ASU MAPPs program as well as expanding our partnership with Grand Canyon University - Why is this important – the State of Arizona ranks in the bottom quartile in per capita bachelor degree completion and numerous studies demonstrate a strong correlation between educational level and personal income, productivity, and civic participation; 3) we must position our Black Mountain site to “own” student enrollments for the northern seven zip codes freeing up classroom seats on the Union Hills campus if we are to meet the enrollment demands; 4) we can substantially expand our preparation programs for adjunct faculty who have never taught, I am excited about the preliminary findings from the formative evaluation for our pilot programs “Ready Set Go” and EDGE; and 5) we must support elements of iStartSmart by moving beyond scattered data to an evidence based, exemplary foundation to launch a student success culture. I look forward to working this summer to address these issues.

So I was asked during my interview why do you want to be president of Paradise Valley Community College? – my response went something like this... **Passionate** about learning and how **learning changes** people’s lives; because community colleges are **open access; we operate on the premise that under the “right**

conditions” all students can learn; and that I welcomed the challenge that through effective **presidential leadership all college systems and community resources** can be focused on the student learning and student success.... I believe this to be true.

So today I leave us with a challenge – the formula for student success is simple – hire the very best faculty and staff who are passionate about their work, who know how to actively engage students in the learning process, and who set high expectations – mix this with motivated students who understand that significant time needs to be spent on educationally purposeful activities, who understand that they need to actively engage in the learning process, and who understand that when they leave PVCC they can contribute to positive social change.

While the formula is simple – the work to create the right conditions for more students, for students that don’t get it, for students that are under prepared, for students who don’t know they don’t know to be successful is very, very challenging and that is what brings all of us to work every day.

From my heart – thank you for all that you do for student learning and student success. I look forward to celebrating our Commencement event tonight.

Thank you.