Good Morning fellow Rams. It is my pleasure to address you for the first time as the Acting Superintendent/President.

I wanted to bring you up to date about where we are with current accreditation activities, and remind you of a few deadlines that we face in the coming months. On October 15th, we will be filing a follow-up report with the Accrediting Commission to update where we are on Recommendations 2, 3 and 6. If you are not aware of the requirements of those recommendations, you can go to the accreditation web site at http://www.vvc.edu/offices/oie/accreditation/accreditation.shtml

**Recommendation 2** deals with program review. We are fully compliant with this recommendation. However, there are things we need to do to demonstrate that using program review to direct each program to meet or exceed student success needs is the culture of the institution. Each program needs to have an action plan based on their assessment of their program. The ultimate goal is student success. How do the various programs work together to assist students in graduating, transferring, or achieving employment?

**Recommendation 3** deals with student learning outcomes and assessment. 100% of the current courses offered have SLO’s. The SLO’S for each course are pre-printed on the course syllabus which is distributed by the Dean’s Office to all faculty prior to the beginning of the semester. There are about 900 current courses offered for the Spring, Summer and Fall semesters. So far we have been focusing on assessing at least one SLO per course. At the moment we have 771 courses that have at least one SLO assessed. Our next objective is to ensure that all SLO’s in every current course are assessed, and that the assessment for every course is used as a tool to improve instruction in every discipline. That means that regular meetings with discipline participants must be held with the results of assessment as a primary topic.

**Recommendation 6** deals with the “structural deficit”. A structural deficit occurs when the expenses of running the college exceed the revenue accruing to the college. Over that last few years VVC has been fortunate in that we have been able to earn a significant ending balance each year. In 2012-2013, through a variety of sources, we ended up with a $12 million ending balance. This will provide for enough funds to allow for a good-sized ending balance at the end of 2013-2014. These ending balances cannot continue indefinitely unless one of two things happen. Either we reduce expenses or increase revenue. In 2016 we will have to reduce expenses by about $3 million unless revenues significantly improve. There are a number of actions that are being taken currently that will help to improve the situation. More drastic actions may be required which involve negotiations with the three unions on campus. I am sure you will all agree with me that the last thing we need to do is cut services to students. We are currently serving more students than we get apportionment for, and those students could be left out in the cold if we reduce our offerings. We all need to face up to the fact that it will take the whole college to help to resolve this recommendation.
On August 30, we will be holding a “convocation”. On that day, the faculty, the classified staff and the managers will be deeply involved in considering evidence of institutional quality that program review and assessment of outcomes has yielded. We will also be looking at the future to see how these results can improve student success.

I would encourage you to participate in the events of August 30. They will start at the PAC at 8.00 am.

The next big accreditation event will be the self-study for the Midterm report which is due on March 15th 2014. Executive Dean Virginia Moran is leading a team of employees who are meeting on a regular basis (every Tuesday) to assign tasks and provide guidance for the completion of this self-study report. Please contact Ginny if you would like to participate in helping to guide the college though the next accreditation hurdle.

By working together we can maintain this college at the “Jewel of the High Desert”, and make sure that current and future student have a good chance to either pursue their education dreams, or find a well-paying job to support their families. Thank you for everything you do.

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