Dear Colleagues,

There are few things more exciting than the beginning of the fall semester, especially at this moment in Citrus College's 93-year history! Welcome to campus; I hope your summer was enjoyable, and that you are ready for an active and productive year.

As you know, last Friday's Convocation was a fun-filled, informative event with a television theme, *Tune in to Our Future*. This is an important time to be a part of the Citrus College community. We have many opportunities for learning, growth, and service exemplified through our six major priorities: emergency preparedness, accreditation, the strategic plan, facilities, board policy updates and community outreach. A "sneak preview" of these priorities reveals:

1. **Emergency Preparedness** remains a priority. Our information sharing and emergency preparedness training is ongoing, which will make us even more capable of helping and protecting one another during emergencies and natural disasters. You will soon receive more information about *BlackboardConnect*, a comprehensive automated communication system that notifies students in cases of emergency.

2. **Accreditation** preparation intensifies this year as we write and evaluate our Self Study for the fall 2009 site visit by AACJC/WASC representatives. Accreditation is the ultimate validation to the educational community and to the public that Citrus College has met the qualifications and standards recognized as necessary for graduate competence and public funding; therefore, it is critically important to our future.

3. The elements of our **Strategic Plan**—student success, student learning outcomes and assessment, fiscal transparency, and communication-enables us to function more efficiently as a college, fulfill our mission and systematically prepare for accreditation. Let's make sure that we are mindful of each element's impact on the way we work and educate.

4. Our **Facilities** projects remain active as construction and renovations continue. In spite of the inconveniences we now face, I am sure we will be excited and proud when the Softball Complex and the Vocational Technology, Student Services, and Field House/Concession buildings are completed, and other facilities on campus are renovated and remodeled.
5. **Board Policies** are tangible evidence of our mission, our priorities, and the way our institution is governed. Therefore, this year we will review and update our board policies to reflect how we will implement the goals and objectives set before us.

6. **Community Outreach** is our lifeline to the communities we serve. Therefore, we will continue and build upon our strong ties with current and potential students, their families, other district residents, K-12 educators, service organizations, and elected officials as often as we can.

I look forward to working with you and discovering the skills, commitment and talent that makes Citrus College the place that our students often refer to as "where my bright future began." I wish you a pleasant and productive fall semester.