June 12, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

In reflecting on the 2008-2009 academic year, I think most of us would agree that it has been a very busy and productive year. We have accomplished much, and I would like to thank each of you for your dedication and hard work on behalf of Citrus College. Only one year ago, I began my tenure as the seventh Superintendent/President of Citrus College, and I am very pleased to say that your warm welcome has evolved into a spirit of teamwork and collegiality that I value greatly.

Working together this past year we achieved many milestones. A significant accomplishment has been the drafting of our new *Educational and Facilities Master Plan 2009-2014*. The plan establishes a foundation for integration of campus-wide planning, and it will allow the college to focus on the achievement of specific and measurable outcomes. The plan received input from faculty, staff, students, and community members.

The final draft of our Accreditation Self-Study has been completed, and it will go to the Governing Board on June 16. In addition, the college has now updated all 38 board policies and administrative procedures that are required for accreditation. These tasks necessitated a tremendous college-wide effort, and I congratulate and thank all those who participated. Our Accreditation site visit will take place October 12 through October 15, 2009.

Many activities were completed in an effort to advance the goals and priorities of our Strategic Plan. Seventy-nine percent of credit courses have now developed student learning outcomes. The college produced two new electronic publications, *The Citrus View* and *A Taste of Citrus*. We held two budget forums and completed an Organization and Governance Handbook. In addition, we completed intensive emergency preparedness training and are now compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the state Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). We launched Citrus Alert, held two safety forums, and had an all-campus fire drill. Members of our Governing Board completed emergency preparedness training for community college trustees.
I’m sure all of you have observed the notable progress in the building of our facilities projects. The Softball Fields were dedicated in March; the Field House and Concession Building will be completed in July; and the impressive Student Services Building is now out of the ground.

This year, we also worked in earnest to strengthen our relationships with potential students and their families; K-12 educators; members of the business community; and elected officials. We hosted tours for community leaders and elected officials, and held an Education Summit, a Green Jobs Summit and many other events.

As we end the year we must remember that, for over 800 Citrus College students who will be awarded degrees, this marks the commencement of the next phase of their lives. We have great expectations for them, and we wish them much success.

I hope that each of you has a wonderful summer and that you will take time to relax and recharge. Many challenges lay ahead for us in the fall. Providing access and quality programs in these unprecedented financial times will not be an easy task. I look forward to collaborating with you in addressing these challenges and in effectively serving our students and our communities.

Once again, I thank you for a wonderful and productive academic year!

Sincerely,

Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President