Happy Holidays! In this season of giving and thanks, I would like to share my gratitude with our students, faculty, classified staff, and administrators. December is often, a time of reflection and anticipation for the coming new year. As we reflect on 2013, we have accomplished much this fall semester. The Colleges’ Accreditation Midterm Reports were submitted to the Accrediting Commission, we welcomed a permanent Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, Michael Shanahan, and the Board of Trustees approved the District Master Plan. Over-arching Master Plan goals include increasing access and student success, partnering effectively to meet community needs, and promoting effective use of organizational resources. As we implement the Master Plan, we will strive to achieve the goals we have set to sustain a quality education for our students, benefit the community, and sustain the Colleges and District Administrative Center.

Also, the Stuart Foundation recently announced it has approved a $100,000 grant to Ventura County Community College District to support the persistence and college completion of over 700 foster youth enrolled at Moorpark College, Oxnard College, Ventura College, and California State University, Channel Islands. This grant will have a significant, positive impact on our foster youth students by making it possible for this at-risk population to stay in college and succeed in higher education. The Board of Trustees will accept the grant funds at its public meeting in January. The Stuart Foundation is dedicated to the protection, education, and development of children and youth. The Foundation works toward ensuring that all children grow up in caring families, learn in vibrant and effective schools, and have opportunities to become productive members of their communities.

This past month at the Board’s Annual Organizational Meeting, the Trustees appointed Art Hernández to serve as Chair of the Board. Chair Hernández has served as both an Officer and Trustee on the Board since his election to the Board in 2000. Trustees also appointed Dianne McKay to serve an additional one-year term as Vice Chair. Vice Chair McKay was elected to the Board in 2010. Stephen Blum, Bernardo Perez, and Larry Kennedy continue to serve in their roles as Trustees, and Nicholas Rodriguez remains Student Trustee through May 2014. Board meetings are held monthly, are open to the public, and I invite you to attend.

I appreciate all that you have contributed this year. Through your exceptional teaching and service to our students, we continue to change lives and give back to the community. I look forward to seeing you again in 2014. I wish you an abundance of joy and a happy New Year. Happy Holidays to you and your family!

Jamillah Moore, Ed.D.
Chancellor