Dear Los Rios Colleagues:

We are off and running on the new 2016-17 school year! This week, we are welcoming more than 75,000 students to classrooms, lecture halls and labs on our four college campuses and six educational centers. I see and feel the high levels of energy and excitement across the District, and it makes me proud – and I know it makes you proud – to be part of our Los Rios community.

It was exhilarating last Friday for me to be a part of five convocations— one at each of the colleges and then wrapping up at the District Office. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces at the colleges and to meet some new members of our community. I understand that many of our colleagues could not attend convocation due to the need to serve our students so close to the first day of classes or to tend to other pressing District business. For those who were not able to join us, here is a link to the videotaped version of the presentation I delivered at Folsom Lake College: "Building Pathways".

Convocation was a great opportunity to refocus on our new strategic plan, to reexamine the enrollment challenges we face together, and to reinforce how we will employ our strategic plan as a roadmap for turning our challenges into opportunities. As promised last Friday, please find below links to information I shared with you as part of the convocation presentation:

- Here is the link to the Los Rios Strategic Plan.
- Here is the link to my July 15 chancellor's note regarding enrollment and stability.
- Here is the link to the League Accreditation Resources website.
- Here is the link to the blog of incoming Folsom Lake College student Madison Sykes and her commentary about making smart choices.
- Here is the link to the student story about how A Parking Pass Changed My Life.
- Here is the link to more information about the book, "Redesigning America's Community Colleges."

And, my offer still holds: I will provide a complimentary copy of the book to the first 150 Los Rios colleagues who request it by writing to me at kingb@losrios.edu. Again, all I ask is that you read it and are willing to engage in an upcoming dialogue about the book. The books are going fast, so don’t wait to request your copy!
Looking ahead, I will be returning to the four colleges later this fall to discuss at greater length how we can work together on our challenges and pursue the goals of our strategic plan. Meanwhile, I wish you all an enjoyable and rewarding new school year and fall semester. We have a committed, resilient team here at Los Rios and, as always, I thank you for your hard work, dedication and perseverance. I look forward to seeing and hearing from you in the weeks and months to come.

Sincerely,