



Patricia Maguire Meservey, *President*

January 30, 2009

I recently convened a gathering of Salem State College faculty, staff and students to provide information about the college's financial status. As we all know, difficult economic challenges currently face our country, our Commonwealth and our world.

Salem State is not immune from these challenges. We are faced with the same reality as is every other college, university, business, and household. It is important for us to understand the magnitude of these financial concerns and to collectively position the college to withstand funding reductions while strategically strengthening our institution.

Like many of you are already doing in your personal lives, changes in the way Salem State does business will be necessary in order to adapt to this fiscal reality. We are fortunate that we have a guide to help us in this process. The college has just completed a five-year Strategic Plan to steer Salem State through 2014 and is available at www.salemstate.edu/strategicplanning/

As we implement the Strategic Plan, I am well aware that the financial challenges we face as a college are very real. We will redefine our efforts to ensure that our students have the rich educational experience they so deserve. This is our commitment.

Most significant at this time, is the preparation of our budget for the next fiscal year, which starts July 1. We are faced with a significant reduction in direct state support from what was allocated for this fiscal year. These cuts will force us to think differently and more creatively about our work and our community in order to strategically position ourselves for the future.

We are in the process of holding campus-wide discussions with our employees and faculty to hear their suggestions and answer any questions they have on our financial situation. We will also be meeting with student groups to address their unique concerns including the impact of any changes on their educational course and possible fee increases for next year.

Despite this unsettling time, I am optimistic that we will move forward. We have faculty and staff who are deeply committed to the education of our students. We are favored with loyal and generous alumni, parents and friends of the college who will continue to support Salem State College during this tough economic period.

In these extraordinary times we remain committed to continuing the fine work which has made Salem State the strong institution that it is today and will be in the future.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Maguire Meservey".

Patricia Maguire Meservey
President