Good Afternoon and Welcome Everyone to LCCC’s 50th Annual Convocation, the annual State of the College Address, and the beginning of the 2016–2017 academic year.

It remains a great honor and privilege for me to lead and work side-by-side with so many outstanding trustees, faculty, administrators, and staff. I want to thank all of you for your hard work and contributions to the outstanding story of LCCC in achieving its great mission.

It has been an amazing year celebrating our 50th Anniversary with the opportunity to reflect on the history of this great institution. Today, because of each of you, LCCC is poised for much success for the next 50 years and beyond.

I hope you enjoyed the summer and are ready to begin the 2016-2017 academic year invigorated and refreshed to continue to build on the ambitions and aspirations that define our College.

Convocation is a time to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year - and what a year it was! And also to look forward thinking about the future of LCCC.

It is with great pride and pleasure that my colleagues and I present the State of the College address. In these remarks we will offer our view of the state of the College, focusing primarily on our accomplishments, operating environment, financial picture, and future directions.
First and most important we want to introduce and Welcome our new administrators, faculty and staff presented by Donna Williams our Director of Human Resources.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

LCCC continues to receive well deserved accolades for our community engagement which is a hallmark of our institution. Because of the dedication and hard work of our trustees, faculty, administrators and staff, our position of prominence in the region has never been stronger. As you know, we were ranked as one of the best community colleges in Pennsylvania by schools.com placing third, recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for our commitment to educating Hispanic students, and recognized by the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship for creating a culture that fosters economic growth. These, in addition to other remarkable rankings, including the designation of being a Military Friendly Institution have positioned LCCC as a leader in developing and sustaining a vibrant regional economy through education.

Faculty has been and continues to be the foundation of LCCC’s excellent education. The 2015-16 Student Satisfaction Survey results report that 95% of the student respondents spoke to the high level of knowledge possessed by our faculty.

Our Graduate Outcome Report reflects that 95% of our 2015 graduates who responded to the survey are employed or continuing their education. This is the highest percentage in the past six years.

LCCC’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter received numerous awards including the Middle States Gold honors at the Middle States Regional Conference and International Convention. In addition, they placed first in the Commonwealth for the Completion Challenge with one fourth of the student signatures in the state coming from LCCC.
Athletics continues to play a very important role in the lives of our students. The Department of Athletics welcomed a sports consultant to provide leadership development training for both the coaches and the student athletes.

Our Middle States Accreditation work is underway and our Self Study Report and Road Map were approved by Middle States earlier this summer. This was achieved through the great effort by many including the Self-Study Co-chairs, the eight Task Force Chairs and all of the task force members. It is critically important that we engage the entire college community in our Middle States reaccreditation to ensure a transparent process. As of July Middle States Accreditation is a standing agenda item for the monthly Board of Trustees meetings and the bi-monthly meetings of the President’s Cabinet.

Our Technology Center now is home to an Advanced Technology Lab with the addition of $500,000 in state of the art technology equipment made possible through the federal PATH grant. Nursing Simulation Laboratories each housing $100,000 of state of the art equipment will be established at the Schnecksville campus and the Morgan Center.

The University Center has been expanded through the hard work of many with the addition of signed articulation agreements with Muhlenberg College, Central Penn College, Kutztown University, Cedar Crest College and Penn State University.

The President’s Leadership Institute graduated the first class this past spring. Their class project was to develop a Conversational Code of Conduct for LCCC. This Code has been embraced by our trustees to be practiced by each one of us in our daily work. The purpose of the Conversational Code of Conduct is to create and maintain an open environment for the exchange of ideas and viewpoints to further the mission and goals of LCCC. Graduates of the Institute now serve as Presidential Advisors and meet with me each semester to discuss college and community initiatives. The 2016-17 Institute will be regional and offered in partnership with Reading Area Community College and Northampton Community College.
After 50 years without a name our Cougar mascot has been dubbed Clawrence. This name was chosen through a contest conducted by the Student Government Association which generated over 100 possibilities.

At a time of scarce resources and fiscal constraint, it is vital for us to secure new sources of revenue growth. The LCCC Foundation and the friends of the College are dedicated to helping students succeed. This year the Foundation worked to assist the College with our focus on diversity by expanding the board to include five individuals from diverse backgrounds.

In addition, the Foundation launched Dedication Day 2016 in celebration of LCCC’s 50th Anniversary, which was held in conjunction with Commencement ceremonies last May. Over $800,000 was raised for student scholarships and special initiatives resulting in numerous naming opportunities.

- A conference room in the Student Services Center was named after the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation to recognize a $50,000 donation to fund a new Veterans Special Emergency Fund.
- The Start Here Student Lounge at the Donley Center was sponsored by Air Products. The funds will be used for paid student internships in downtown Allentown.
- The Stabler Baseball Fields provided for $500,000 to establish an endowment for student scholarships. In addition, we requested an additional $300,000 this year to continue to build the endowment and fund select expenses of the Honors Scholars program.
- Trustees are extremely giving of their time and talents to LCCC students. Trustees Joseph Alban and Annabelle Creveling both designated funds for student scholarships. A Conference Room and a Faculty Office have been named to recognize their generous donations.
- Acquiring funds to provide scholarships continues to be a focus as we work with donors. Last year we provided over $650,000 in scholarships to 600 students. The Century Fund agreed to provide $50,000 to match the $50,000 from the Arcadia Foundation for full scholarships to a select number of 2016 Allentown School District graduates. This initiative will
now serve as a two year pilot program entitled the ASD Promise Scholarship. To recognize these donors the Tutoring Center at the Donley Site will be named after the Century Fund’s founder, Donald Miller and the Art Suite in the Community Services Center will recognize the Arcadia Foundation.

Technology will continue to play an increasingly important role in our lives. To ensure we make decisions based on data, it is essential that end-users have access to information so they can run both transactional and higher level analytical reports. Discussions were conducted with the President of the Achieving the Dream Foundation and her team to determine how LCCC may be an Achieving the Dream partner. We will start by sending a team next month to the Achieving the Dream Data Summit. In addition, this summer we began an independent review of our information technology with an emphasis placed on IT infrastructure, hardware, software, security, and staffing. These results have provided a base of information for review and actions items in moving forward to further enhance information technology at the College.

3 Seed Marketing has guided the development of our new website and there are many new features. When searching the website the experience is now the same whether it is done from a desktop or a mobile device. The number one most visited page is the academics page and it is now divided into the program categories and also includes callouts for exploring the different degrees as well as the individual course information. There also is a new student experience section which highlights student life, clubs, and the Wellness Center.

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

Recruiting new students and encouraging them to stay the course and complete their chosen path requires all of our efforts. This is no small task in this ever changing environment with the volume of information crossing all of our paths every minute.
I would like to play this 6 minute video which captures the changes taking place in our society today and illustrates why our jobs will be more challenging than ever before. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqZiIO0YI7Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqZiIO0YI7Y)

At the completion of the video we will take approximately 10 minutes to discuss the video at your tables and answer a set of questions. Dr. Meyer, Cindy Haney and Brian Kahler will follow and address their areas of responsibility.

**OPERATING ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCIAL PICTURE – DR. MEYER, CINDY HANEY AND BRIAN KAHLER**

**FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

I am sure you will agree that there has been an amazing amount of work achieved this year and that was possible because of each of you, your hard work and working together as a team and I thank you.

I am also sure you will agree that the next 50 years of operations for LCCC will be significantly different that the past 50 years. During the course of this presentation alone there were 167 Million views on You Tube video; 9 Billion emails were sent; and 2.3 Million posts to Instagram.

While change is inevitable and necessary, we must also stay true to our mission. We must find ways to innovate, to find solutions to improve all parts of the student experience and to remove as many administrative obstacles to student retention or admission as we can.

LCCC’s Strategic Plan: *Many Voices, One Vision* was developed with the input of our stakeholders and provides our strategic direction. In the coming year we will pursue strategic initiatives around 4 Major Themes: Diversity; Student Success and Retention; Enrollment Management; and Sustainability. Each theme is tied to our strategic plan and will guide us in maintaining our focus while providing a significant step forward for this College.

In conclusion, this past year has been a year anchored by challenge and celebration. As we begin this new academic year as always there is some uncertainty. However, I can say with complete certainty that the work completed
in the past 50 years and the work we do together now will lay the foundation for an even stronger LCCC. We have worked together through triumph and challenge and I feel honored to have joined you in that journey and remain excited to take the first steps together into our next half century.

Thank you for everything you do for LCCC and please know that you have my best wishes for the coming academic year.
HEART OF THE COUGAR AWARD

Now it is time to present our Heart of the Cougar Award. The Heart of the Cougar Award allows LCCC to pause to celebrate the efforts of an individual who "goes above and beyond" on behalf of our students and the achievement of our mission.

The Cougar is LCCC’s mascot. The Cougar is also known by its Incan name “Puma” meaning power and is a symbol of self-leadership. It reminds us of our responsibility to others, ourselves and personal truth.

When Cougar people have a cause in mind, they leap forward with swiftness and power, and expect others to do so as well. They are decisive and the leaders of others. This happens, not through seeking positions of power, but because others see them striding confidently and choose to follow.

This year’s Heart of the Cougar Award winner is someone who takes great pride in their teaching career and the lives they touch through their tenure at LCCC. This individual’s professional approach and pleasant demeanor is evident as they work tirelessly to provide educational opportunities to the members of the community where they live and work. She is always promoting LCCC and the Morgan Scholarships throughout the community to ensure that students understand the amazing opportunity that is available and just how special it is to be a student at LCCC. She is giving of her time for LCCC in many ways including serving as Chief Negotiator for the Faculty Association, Chair of a Middle States Steering Committee as well as serving on numerous committees.

It is my pleasure to present the Heart of the Cougar Award to Professor Melanie Turrano.