College Update

“I haven’t heard a cross word today or experienced any negativity...I think that speaks volumes about the people of eastern North Carolina.” (President Brantley Briley, Lenoir Community College)

“Good Night, Irene”

During a teleconference led by Governor Beverly Perdue at Pitt Community College on September 1, I and many other eastern NC community college presidents reported on the damages to our campuses following the lengthy stay of Hurricane Irene in our area. Pitt Community College certainly took its share of damage from the wind and rain of this natural disaster, and all schools remarked on the impact on employees and students of such a strong storm. Everyone praised the resiliency of everyone in their communities, and I feel that the above quote speaks to the strong desire to have things return to normal as quickly as possible. We realize that many are still suffering, including students and staff at PCC. In fact, Pamlico CC is still being utilized as an area shelter, and the damage at the College of the Albemarle’s Roanoke campus in Manteo was especially severe. Nevertheless, we are determined to continue to provide education and workforce training to everyone we serve – this is a major source of hope and opportunity for the future, and thanks to your hard work we will follow through on our mission “to educate and empower people for success.”

I want to especially praise the Maintenance and Grounds staff under the leadership of Ashley Dail, the Information Technology staff, including Rick Owens, Bill Lewis, and Wes Wooten, among others, and the Campus Police for their hard work over the weekend and the first part of the week in enabling us to open on Wednesday, August 31. Many faculty and staff, especially Wendy Ayscue and Cyndra Gasperini, are working in areas significantly damaged by the hurricane, but the greatest casualty has been Trailer 24, which houses the Compensatory Education program. We will need to relocate this program off campus, as we have no suitable space available on campus.

Almost all the eastern NC community colleges expressed their thankfulness to Governor Perdue and NC Community Colleges President Scott Ralls that the damage was no worse than it was, but we also know that we will discover additional results in the weeks to come. On a crowded campus such as Pitt, we will do our best to return to normal and make a positive of this experience. I thank all of you for your persistence, your ingenuity, and your dedication to serving students and the community.
Start-Up of Fall Semester

The census date for curriculum program attendance was last Friday before Irene arrived, so except for official figures for Huskins high school students, we have a better estimate of our enrollment for fall, and we are down 0.55% in FTE from last year at this point. We are studying a number of areas to learn how we can improve our processes next year, and I urge advisors and academic support staff to respond to a Planning & Research survey sent out to VPs Spell and Hilbert to assist us. Slackening of our growth was expected and is in line with what most other community colleges are experiencing, but we always want to do our best to provide student access at the highest level possible.

Accomplishments and Recognitions

- **Elizabeth Toderick** (Director, Nursing) has successfully passed the National League of Nursing Certified Nursing Educator exam, another indicator of the high quality of this program at PCC.

- PCC was named a 2012 Military Friendly School by *G.I. Jobs* magazine, ranking in the top 20% of all colleges nationwide. Thanks especially to **Angela Cline** for her leadership in serving military and veteran students and dependents.

- **Charity Valentine** (AFA Coordinator) reports that many Pitt faculty will have work in East Carolina University’s Alumni Exhibition 2011 opening this weekend at the Gray Gallery at ECU, Emerge, and the Greenville Museum of Art.

- Thanks to **Ernis Lee and Bertha Woolard** for their tireless work representing PCC at the Greenville National Night Out event on August 2.

At the Fall Convocation we introduced many new faculty and staff to Pitt Community College, and I want to again thank them for joining our campus in our important work of serving students and the region. I ask all of you to help make these new people’s starts at PCC as successful as possible. As she was leaving on September 1, Governor Perdue remarked that she is always impressed with our campus team. Even with the interruption by Irene, we are off to a good start for 2011-12, and I appreciate all of your contributions.

G. Dennis Massey, President