This is definitely the season of celebration with many events which are coming up or recently concluded which honor our students, employees, and friends in the community. It is the time when much of what we have worked hard on is showing a result, and I thank all of you who are helping to realize the mission and goals of Pitt Community College in serving our region. Certainly the biggest occasions before us are the Commencement Exercises on May 11 and the pinning ceremonies and other activities which precede it. We also have the GED/Adult High School Graduation on May 24 at the Greenville Convention Center and a VISIONS program graduation on May 14. Just this week we are hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Construction & Industrial Technology Building and Facilities Services Building at 3 PM tomorrow. And the events which have recently concluded include the Employee Appreciation and Service Awards Night on April 20 and the Small Business Awards Breakfast and Spring Concert of the PCC Symphony Orchestra, both grand occasions held yesterday. And this is admittedly an incomplete list.

The main message of most of these celebrations is the recognition of performance and usually of completion. We have much to be proud of, for sure. But we also have much more to accomplish, especially when you consider that we will be awarding about 1300 degrees, certificates, and diplomas in this past year, but we also had almost 9000 students enrolled last fall. Some students did not have completion among their goals, but except for a limited number of focused training experiences, perhaps completion should have been the goal of almost all students. We realize that many students move on to a university before completing a degree at Pitt, but we also know that many do not enroll or persist at their transfer institutions. In other words, we have much work ahead in counseling, supporting, and promoting completion among all our students. I ask you to become engaged in this effort. Our entire community will benefit.

I also want to report briefly to you on our budget planning for 2012-13. I thank you for your leadership and participation in registering students for both summer session and fall semester. This will promote student planning and retention. I have heard that summer numbers are larger than ever, and we are hopeful that we will see a significant gain in the fall over this year’s enrollment. This will be somewhat challenging for us, as our state budget is being reduced for 2012 and we have very little enrollment growth funds to cushion this cut. Nevertheless, it is vital for us to increase our numbers in the fall in both new students and retention to assist us in 2013-14. Pitt Community College has been fortunate to have a history of growth, and we certainly want it to continue to support a thriving community. I am also hopeful that the General Assembly may allow us flexibility in using our allocated state funds for rewarding employees financially at least in a modest way in the coming year. I know how hard all of you have worked the past several years.
SACS preparation is moving forward, and I will report more on progress in next month’s report. The Quality Enhancement Plan will be submitted in June, and we will hear back from our Compliance Certification then also. Many of you are helping with the preparations for greeting our review team in September.

**Recognitions and Accomplishments**

- The Women’s Softball team distinguished themselves at last week’s regional tournament, defeating the #3 and #4 seeds and finally going down to the #1 seed, Spartanburg Methodist. Go the PCC Website to see all the student honors, including Amanda Daw and Cassie Harrell as Academic All-Americans.
- Sigma Alpha Pi has recognized three Excellence in Teaching Awards to Allyson Woolard (who helped establish the chapter in 2007), Tabitha Miller, and Charles Saunders. Dean Dan Mayo delivered the keynote address at the Induction Ceremony in April.
- The Polysomnography students took first prize in the Pajama Bowl, with Matthew Wadford, Ryan Spruill, and Jon Upchurch on the teams, defeating Catawba Valley in the finals. Great thanks to Instructor Bruce Warrender and Chair Sandra Mathis for their support.
- Almost 700 students participated in April’s Career Fairs. Many thanks to all those who assisted, especially Arwen Parris who led the planning.
- PCC Student Massage Therapy Association raised $810 through chair massages to support cancer research in the Relay for Life event.
- Student Ambassadors Tamsey Evans and Adam Wainwright assisted with the Fine Arts Ball of the Greenville Museum of Art. Trustee Don Mills and many others were very grateful for their support. The Ambassadors have all been busy this spring, and we are indebted to them for their energy and dedication.
- Ashley Smith, Alumni Relations Director, graduated from the NC Community College Leadership Program this past week. Cynthia Jemigan was Co-Director and Stephanie Woodley was Treasurer of this System-wide training program.
- Andrew Walker, Planning and Research, completed the Greenville-Pitt County Leadership program in April. This has been a great resource for many of our employees in the past and we hope to continue involvement in 2012-13.

Best wishes to all this busy spring season. Thanks for all that you are doing for Pitt Community College! If you will be speaking to groups in our community in the future, we now have a new PCC Profile brochure which includes the highlights of our growing college. Thanks to Jane Power, Susan Nobles, Rob Goldberg, Warren Award winner Gretchen Baugh, and others who helped with its production.

G. Dennis Massey, President