November 1, 2012

College Update

Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy has helped to propel us past the midpoint of Fall 2012 semester and into November and final exams in December, but there were many activities in October involving our students and employees which I want to feature. First, however, I will say a bit about the upcoming year, the bright prospects and decision points ahead of us.

Thanks to your hard work and ingenuity, we have negotiated two major challenges. We resumed our very positive enrollment growth this semester, no mean accomplishment compared to many other NC colleges, and I have great hopes that current initiatives like Retention Alert will enable us to continue the pattern we had established since before 2000 of annually increasing student access to higher education in our region, our #1 Strategic Goal. In addition, as I stated in last month’s College Update, our reaccreditation work went very well in September’s review and I am sure that those charged with responding to recommended adjustments, especially in our Career and Advising Plan (CAP), will help us complete the process in 2013. We are poised for great things, including increasing significantly the graduates in all programs.

The NC General Assembly will begin its 2013-15 Biennial Budget session in January, and the NC Community Colleges have agreed upon priorities for new funding to continue the momentum of economic and workforce development. In addition to full enrollment growth funding, our proposal includes:

- **Funding for Year-Round Targeted Instruction** – as you know, we are not funded for summer instruction, even though many of our programs continue during that period. This would begin to get at this shortfall, especially with developmental coursework or technical education.

- **Performance-Based Funding** – I have continued to serve on the state committee of presidents and State Board members which wants to reward colleges for student success and provides these awards proportional to number of students impacted.

- **Investment in Technical Education Infrastructure** – more equipment to serve new and expanding industries in our communities.

- **Restructure NC Back-to-Work** – Adding to pre-employment training projects funding which was initiated by the 2012 General Assembly.

As in the past (or at least since the 2000 State Bond Referendum), this does not address our ongoing capital needs. I will discuss those in a future College Update.

There were so many events in October, but certainly a high point was Automotive System Technology’s Open House on October 19-20 and many thanks to Dean Van Madray, Chair Norman Lilley and many other faculty and staff who welcomed over one hundred high school students and many community guests, some from quite a distance away, to see our impressive new CIT Building. The displays by Richard Petty’s organization delighted visitors and meetings with Snap-On Tools executives.
underscored the important partnerships (we are only one of three Snap-On Certification Centers in North Carolina) which connect us with future employers and resources.

On October 15 I updated the Pitt County Commissioners on our enrollment growth and featured a graduate of our Automotive program, P.J. Corbett of Greenville Toyota, and a company we have served with extensive welding and customized training, Mestek of Farmville. The commissioners spoke very positively of our outreach to Pitt County residents and employers, including our facilitating use of the Career Reading Certification led by Mary Paramore and staff.

We also recorded an important first, as former SGA President Jason Donica was awarded the Robert W. Scott Leadership Award in a very competitive selection process conducted by the NC Community College Presidents’ Association. Jason is an excellent representative of the student leaders we have had over the years at Pitt, and we are proud of the recognition he has received. He joins the ranks of outstanding PCC alumni who in our region.

Accomplishments and Recognitions:

• **North Carolina Community Colleges System Conference** on October 7-9 was a great way to kick off the 50th anniversary of our state system. In addition to those I mentioned last month who presented at the conference, Jasmine Spain, LaTonya Nixon, and Cheri White did a session on the summer SPAN program.

• **Respiratory Therapy students Bobby DeGiosio, Tabitha Gonzalez, Luv Harris, and Katie Lehman** took first place at the state quiz bowl and will represent NC in the national competition in November. This department had a very impressive Open House on October 25.

• **PCC Volleyball Team members** were recognized during a scrimmage on October 27 for their two years of outstanding play. They will compete in the Region X tournament at Brunswick CC on November 2-3.

• **Andre Gregory and Stephanie Rook** attended the Fulbright FLTA Supervisor workshop to share best practices in hosting our Visiting Fulbright Scholars. Pitt was the only community college which was invited.

• **Allyson Woolard and Valentina Holder of the Administrative and Medical Technology Department (AMOT)** were certified as ICD 10 instructors, while Wanda Tenpenny and Marla McLawhorn were recertified.

• **Tim Strickland** was named Director of Facility Services after an extensive search. He has most recently served in a similar position at Wilson Community College, but as a former PCC student and advisory board member, he has hit the ground running.

Don’t forget about the Down East Holiday Show at the Convention Center on November 2-4, as it benefits so many of our students. And enjoy the Indian Summer weather of November when you can.

G. Dennis Massey, President