December 1, 2013

College Update

With the end of the semester and the calendar year fast approaching, there is much to attend to at school and home, though I sincerely hope that you had a few days of relative peace over the Thanksgiving holiday. Now for the final push to help students to successfully complete the term and for all of us to prepare for the spring semester which will begin in early January.

Through your strong efforts, we were able to maintain our record levels of enrollment from Fall 2012, no small feat compared with other NC colleges. Our biggest challenge is to keep students moving forward toward their educational goals, which is why initiatives such as CAP and Way to Success (and the upcoming Exam Jam, see below) are so vital to achieving the college’s mission. We have been largely successful in the state’s many Performance Measures, positive progress in themselves and which have produced budgetary rewards of almost $300K for the results. These advances enabled us to add many new faculty and staff positions at a time when many schools are reducing employees. Sustaining our positive growth will not be easy, especially compared with national trends.

There were many things to be proud of over the first half of 2013-14: the successful search for a new vice president for academic affairs; the strong start of the Career and Academic Planning (CAP) initiative; planning for groundbreaking of the new Goess Center addition and relocation of the Student Tutoring Center. The ninth Leadership Institute participants have responded very positively to their experiences, and our new Teaching and Learning leader Lori Preast has engaged adjunct instructors in ways which will benefit students and our full-time faculty.

Certainly a major accomplishment for the campus has been the successful passage of the first bond referendum in 24 years, $19.9 million which will support a new Science Building and new quarters for our Law Enforcement training program. For all these reasons and many more, we are thankful. The strategic planning process for 2014-17 is just beginning, and Brian Miller and I look forward to interaction with many of you as well as our community stakeholders in reviewing our mission and determining goals and specific objectives ahead for us. In the meantime, we will be wrapping up our current Strategic Plan in the winter and spring, and these results will also provide direction for us in the years immediately ahead.

Accomplishments and Recognitions

- **Kathy Carnes** (President’s Office) had a photographic exhibition on display as Artist of the Month at the Imperial Theatre through the Farmville Community Arts
Council in October. Some of you may be aware that her work frequently appears in the Daily Reflector.

- **Xudong Jin** (Library) was named Associate of College and Research Libraries Member of the Week in November.
- **Tim Strickland** (Facilities Services) recently was named by the NC Association of Community College Facilities Operations the Fall 2013 Outstanding Member Award for his dedication, contributions and leadership.
- **Laquan Black** (Health Information Technology) recently attained the status of registered health information administrator by passing the RHIA credentialing exam.
- **Faith Fagan** received a President’s Award and will serve on the Board of the NC Cooperative Education Association in the coming year.
- **Sheila Turnage** (Continuing Education) has won a Newberry Honor and Junior Library Guild Selection for *Three Times Lucky*, a NC novel nominated for an Edgar award for best juvenile mystery.

Finally, please join me in welcoming Dr. Thomas Gould to PCC as our new Vice President for Academic Affairs. Many thanks to the search committee led by HR Director Mike Shreves with representatives from all academic divisions for their strong work in screening and selection. Some of you have already met him, and I am sure that all of you will be impressed with his enthusiasm, his broad experience, and his dedication to our mission and goals.

I also want to thank Dean Donna Neal for her excellent work as Interim VP over a period longer than she initially projected. We are stronger as a College thanks to her creativity, persistence, and sound judgment. I know how much Health Sciences is happy that she is back in Fulford.

In the interest of helping students, please consider participating in the EXAM JAM being sponsored by the Tutorial and Academic Success Center on December 9-10 from 5-9 PM. This will be a chance to assist students as they prepare for the end of the semester challenges. It will take place in the Goess Center, **NOT** the new quarters for TASC which will be open Spring Semester.

Best wishes for a good December!

G. Dennis Massey, President