December 1, 2014

College Update

After the Thanksgiving holiday it is a downhill rush through December to the Christmas break, so this Update will be brief for the benefit of all of you who are similarly quite busy, including those faculty members who are aiding students in completing the long semester which began for many in August. It’s times like these that I almost wish we would return to the 10-week academic quarter calendar!

Among the many holiday related events ahead this month are an Education Summit sponsored by the Pitt/Greenville Chamber of Commerce involving Superintendent Ethan Lenker, ECU Provost Ron Mitchelson, and me on December 11. We will highlight the collaborations among our systems, especially in relation to “alignment” (articulation and coordination of services for students), workforce development and connections with local business and industry, and programs in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM), such as the planned Early College High School here on our campus. I am pleased that our educational partners are working so well together.

The College Council meeting has been shifted to 2 PM on Thursday, December 11 (same day as Ed Summit!) in Fulford 153 with an interactive topic on respect for campus students and employees.

I also will be making a brief presentation to the Pitt County Commissioners, including their new members, Mary Perkins-Williams and Charles Farley, about PCC’s progress in several areas, including the planning of the Science Building. And December is also a Board of Trustees meeting month so there is always important business to prepare for this important group led by Chair Charles Long.

I truly appreciate the strong efforts of faculty and staff in urging current students to take advantage of Early Registration for Spring semester 2015. This is scheduled to conclude this week, so please get the word out on its importance. To date, we are about even with applications from new students at this time last year, but behind in our overall enrollment.

Accomplishments and Recognitions

- Katrina Arnold and Laurie Weston (Instructional Support and Transitional Programs) presented “Innovations in Transitions in Adult Education” at the National College Transitions Network Conference in November.
- Ernis Lee (College Outreach/Continuing Education) was the speaker at the Mt. Olive Housing Authority quarterly meeting in November.
• Sue Jefferson and the English Department hosted a symposium for students titled “Go English” which highlighted the diverse and worthy careers achieved by English and Communications majors.
• Sean Travis and the Student Veterans Association hosted the Veterans Salute on November 11 with the assistance of Advisor Ken Peel, Alison Trenga, and Sonji Rowsom. Outstanding presentation by Gunnery Sergeant Marie Voegel and excellent turnout by campus and community members.

You have an opportunity to experience the PCC Orchestra, Bulldog Beat, Elements of Praise and PCC Chorale on Tuesday, December 9, at 7:30 PM at Reimage Church, a special treat. Add to this the theatre of Anthony Holsten and company this coming weekend. And you simply must see one of the December PCC Men’s Basketball games on December 9, 11, 17 or 19. They are an exciting team!

So there is much to do, so little time. Have a great remainder of 2014!

G. Dennis Massey, President