November 1, 2014

College Update

We are definitely on the downturn for fall semester, and with the clocks adjusting this weekend it will seem that much closer to winter. This is the time when efforts to engage with students are important, especially with the lengthier than usual break over Thanksgiving ahead of us. Please help students complete this term and urge them to register early for the Spring 2015 semester, as advising begins soon. This may be a time to motivate, direct toward assistance, or even discuss modifications in their educational goals or objectives. The Completion by Design research indicates that getting into “gateway” courses in a desired major is important to sustaining momentum toward degree goals.

On October 2 we hosted a successful Workforce Learning Summit with the Department of Commerce featuring System President Scott Ralls and involving many key employers we are serving in Pitt County, and we have had subsequent meetings with many other companies to make sure that we are preparing students effectively for current and future openings. This is an ongoing function of our many curriculum advisory committees. Among the challenges expressed by employers at the Summit were the necessity for soft skills of new employees, including presentation of self, punctuality, and motivation/incentive. They also appreciated what we did on the communications of services which colleges provide, including training of current employees. Thanks to Mary Patheon, Kristin Braswell, VP Gould for their presentations. Look for more developments to support workforce development from our credit and continuing education departments, especially in relation to major worker increases at Patheon, The Roberts Company, and other companies.

The tenth PCC Leadership Institute (LI) was held in October, and the faculty and staff demonstrated keen interest and talent in their work with the instruction, case studies, and projects. It was such a positive time for all and special thanks to Brian Miller and the entire team who planned and organized the program in New Bern. LI #10 will continue in November with a session on ethics with Dr. Maria Clay from ECU. We have also had outstanding leadership presentations by President Scott Ralls and Dean Hilda Barrow in this year’s “Community College Leadership Preparation Program” coordinated by Jasmine Spain and Nicholas Vick. The next presentation is on November 19 featuring Vice President of Student Development Services Donald Spell.

I think that everyone agrees that direction and momentum are key ingredients for success, both of students and programs. “Alignment” is a key concept which aids in making sure that energies are being productively used, and that is why changes in the Career and College Promise program, which involves pre-college students in our credit classes, have been central to structuring choices in specific pathways. Similarly, the new Comprehensive Articulation Agreement with UNC universities looks to be a big improvement for facilitating transfer and baccalaureate degree completion.

The Pitt Community College 2014-2017 Strategic Plan presents four major goals: Student Learning Success, Workforce Readiness and Job Readiness, Student and Community Engagement, and Leveraging Technology for Success. The booklet which describes the specific objectives and measures for accountability will soon be available
on the PCC website as well as in brochures which will be distributed to each department. Please review this material so that you are familiar with these special campus initiatives over the next three years.

Accomplishments and Recognitions

- The Construction and Industrial Technology Division was successful in auctioning two houses built by our students on October 18, which means that we will have the funding to continue these valuable projects (yes, you can hear the sigh of relief from Department Chair Will Pack). High school carpentry teams competed to construct work sheds on our campus on the same day.
- **Wendy Ayscue** received word that the Respiratory Care Program has met or exceeded all measures in their accreditation process.
- **Jeffery Mobley** (Information Systems) has become licensed and ordained as a minister.
- **Jim Ensor** and the PCC Small Business Center (SBC) received the SBC Networks Centers of Excellence Award on Entrepreneurship in the Classroom.
- **Beth Perkins and Tonya Forrest** (Continuing Ed) participated in a charity cornhole tournament to benefit Habitat for Humanity and the Food Bank.
- **Eddie Sherrod** (CIT) took 1st place in Country Line Dance at the NC State Fair Folk Festival with his team “FootLoose Friends.”
- **Presenters at the 2014 NCCCS Conference in Raleigh:** Michael Clendenen, Nicholas Vick, Jasmine Spain, Don King, Laurie Weston, Katrina Arnold, Belinda Grubbs, Tytisha Davis, Starlette Vaught, Kimberly Williamson, Allyson Woolard, Kathy Worthington, Lori Preast, Helen Parke, Joanne Ceres, and Hilda Barrow.

PCC won three Medallion Awards this week at the NCMPR (National Council of Marketing & Public Relations) District II Annual Conference & Awards Banquet in Nashville, TN.

- **Jane** Power-Gold Medallion Award for the 2013 Annual Report Category
- **Alex** Freedman-Silver Medallion Award for the Video Program Category
- **Rob Goldberg, Alex Freedman, Jane Power**-Bronze Medallion Award for the Community Advocacy Category (2013 bond referendum)

With so many positive things going on, we are indeed thankful. I will provide an update next month on our agenda for the General Session Long Session. In the meantime, keep the ball rolling for this semester. And come out to the Men’s Basketball “Tip Off Classic” tournament on Friday, November 7 beginning at 4 PM.

G. Dennis Massey, President