March 2, 2014

**College Update**

Black History Month events, sponsored by the Multicultural Activities Committee (MAC) at Pitt Community College, wrapped up with a strong PCC Orchestra performance at Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church of music by African American composers as well as a campus film festival. I did not want to let this year’s array of presentations pass by without acknowledging the outstanding Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations. There was a strong address by Dr. Garrie Moore, former PCC Vice President and ECU Vice Chancellor, at the Scholarship Breakfast on January 16, with an inspiring introduction by his neighbor and friend, former PCC Board of Trustees chair Raymond Reddrick. The scholarship presentation on this Golden Jubilee of the Civil Rights Act was made to Mr. Tu Taw, an automotive technology student who emigrated from Myanmar (Burma) with his family and has distinguished himself as a dedicated and gifted student. Mr. Taw proudly displayed his U.S. citizenship when accepting the award from Jane Power.

Later that day, an outstanding array of presentations by students and staff members celebrated Dr. King’s legacy. Led by Instructor Regina Garcia, the talent displayed was incredible, notably Mr. Jeremiah David, Ms. Natasha Bealon, Ms. Alexis Miller, and our SGA President La’Quon Rogers. It was inspiring to hear these PCC students. With Women's History ahead in March, I look forward to more MAC activities and urge you all to attend. And do not forget nominations for our first Man of Excellence, nominations deadline of March 28, sponsored by the Men’s Resource Center. The talent we have at Pitt Community College deserves recognition and celebration!

Construction will begin shortly on the Craig Goess Student Center addition. We will minimize interference with scheduled activities and student services during construction in 2014, but we are preparing to utilize the Ed and Joan Warren Building as a venue for activities as well, especially during the New Student Orientation period. The College Bookstore will relocate to the Goess Center after the beginning of next year if all goes well, and we will also have a Career Center, computer lab, and student lounge in the space added. And we will be starting soon a thorough analysis headed by Architect John Farkas of what will be going into the new Science Building. We have a lot to look forward to, and there will be more to come.

Dr. Brian Miller has been meeting with many groups in preparation for the 2014-17 Strategic Plan. He met last week with a Development Team, which will be analyzing the ideas on goals and objectives over the next several months and planning to share a draft of the plan with the Board of Trustees this summer. The Pitt Community College Mission Statement is being reviewed also, with the Writing Team chaired by Tabitha Miller and including John Carrere, Lora Clark, and Susan Nobles. The plan is to build upon the existing “Educating and Empowering Students for Success” theme and
connect it more specifically to PCC and our Strategic Plan goals. Look forward to the presentation of the Plan and Mission Statement at the August 13 Convocation.

Finally, even though our credit headcount registered a slight increase in Spring 2014, the estimated FTE, upon which our budget is based, is down about 2.5% compared to this time last year. This means that we will be scrutinizing all staffing requests and budget allocations carefully in the coming year to ensure that we have the resources to adequately support our core operations and initiatives. Luckily, we are not in a position of budget reductions as many others, but we must be prudent. A good sign for the future is the General Assembly funding of a portion of our Summer Session enrollment, though that will not assist us financially until 2015-16. In the meantime, we need to work hard to get back in the positive growth numbers to serve the needs of Pitt County and our region.

Recognitions and Accomplishments

- Velislava Karaivanova (Chemistry) has had an article approved for publication in the April 2014 issue of Learning Abstracts by the League of Innovation.
- Dr. Virginia Hardy (Board of Trustees) delivered the keynote address at the Pitt County “Community Unity Day” on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday at the Murphy Center at East Carolina University.
- Dean Donnie Lee and Bertha Mooring (Business Division) retired this past week after many years of outstanding service to students and Pitt Community College.

Thanks very much to the faculty and staff who nominated outstanding students for consideration as Academic Excellence award recipients. Please attend the Program and Reception to follow honoring this year’s honorees on Friday, March 21, at 2 PM in the Goess Center.

G. Dennis Massey, President