October 1, 2014

**College Update**

We are well into the Fall semester, even many late-starting courses are underway, and I know that you are all very busy with supporting the success of our students. I hope also that you are able to enjoy some of this beautiful fall weather as well!

The performance of Pitt Community College students continues to elevate thanks to their initiative and your assistance. In 2013-14 the number of graduates and certificate and diploma completers increased from 1696 in 2012-13 to 2068, with many students earning more than one credential. During this period, the percentage of students on Dean’s List also increased, from 28% to 32%. Our greatest challenge is in getting a higher percentage of our total student population to show improvement and accomplishment.

This is why the Completion by Design initiative is so important. If students are able to complete Gateway courses in their major and negotiate the often challenging developmental courses in Math and English, we will see many more graduates.

This is of great interest to the people of Pitt County and eastern North Carolina, especially employers who are striving to recruit workers in a number of local businesses and industries. Many of these companies in manufacturing, biotechnology, and other areas are seeking applicants with technical skills as well as the ability to work in teams and become potential leaders in their firms.

On October 2 we are hosting a **Workforce Learning Summit** in conjunction with Martin Community College and Beaufort County Community College on our campus. Representatives from the NC Works Career Centers and the Workforce Development Board in these areas will also be present, and we are honored to have President Scott Ralls on our campus to preside. A number of local companies will not only attend but be asked to address the challenges they are facing in recruiting and retaining employees. Among those companies will be Natural Blends, LLC, which celebrated the opening of their vegetable dehydration plant in Farmville this week. Vidant Medical Center, ASMO, Purilum, MARCO, and others will be contributing.

As a sneak preview of what will be presented on October 2, please copy and open the link on a video produced by Alex Freedman in Institutional Advancement for our Continuing Education program at Alliance One, [http://youtu.be/MRiVE0r4Gfc](http://youtu.be/MRiVE0r4Gfc). This partnership with employers is something we will continually enhance and improve. Many thanks to VP Tom Gould, Dean Kristin Braswell, Mary Paramore, and others for their initiative and outreach. They are truly promoting two important Strategic Goals, Workforce Development and Community Engagement.
Many faculty and staff will be attending the upcoming NC Community College System Conference on October 12-14. Meetings like this are excellent opportunities to display the great things we are doing and to learn from the best practices at other colleges. I will share the list of PCC presenters in the November College Update.

It may seem a long way off, but Presidents are already working on the proposal for the 2015-17 biennial budget. I will have more on this for you later.

Accomplishments and Recognitions

- **Jim Weese** (Continuing Education) and Gail Nichols report that PCC recorded an Outstanding performance rating of over 85% from the NC Real Estate Commission for training and preparing students for the state test.
- **LaTonya Nixon** (TRIO Director) announces that TRIO week will take place on October 27-31 highlighting the success of students and TRIO services both on campus and in the community. Look for more info on this important program.
- **Dr. Ray Taylor** (Human Services) conducted training in Mental Health First Aid for over 20 faculty and staff over three days in September. This was a national program endorsed by the National Council for Behavioral Health.
- **Wanda Tenpenny** (Medical Office Administration) has completed the certification for Certified Professional Medical Auditor.
- **Angela Davis** (Library) for inviting a Pitt County Board of Elections official to promote and assist students and employees at Voter Registration Day on September 23.

At the “Chat with the Chief” with student leaders I once again was impressed with the dynamism of our students. They are definitely empowered, as our mission states. One of their major statements was the importance of student clubs. I am very thankful to you who serve as advisors and support to these important organizations. SGA will be promoting more communication among clubs to extend outreach and sharing of ideas to involve more students.

One recommendation of the students was to promote more participation at student athletics events. Women’s Volleyball’s next home match is October 11 with more to come in October, and Men’s Basketball will begin shortly. Check schedules on the PCC Website and come out to support the Bulldogs!

G. Dennis Massey, President