January 1, 2015

College Update

Past

prods present
to invent

future (“Janus,” K. Balachandran)

The beginning of the calendar has all the symbolism of endings (“Auld Lang Syne”) as well as fresh starts with New Year’s resolutions and hopes for better luck from Fortune and the inevitable circle of worldly actions. It also comes on the heels of the shortest day of the year and points to an inevitable turn to blossoms and regeneration. But for the academic year January comes at the midpoint of the primary course of study (not to mention our funding cycle), so taking stock of where we are and the direction ahead is appropriate and necessary.

First, as for 2014, I suggest you consult Rob Goldberg’s “Year in Review” for the highlights of what was a year of PCC advancement and celebration. Among the many positive events and accomplishments are

- The development and launching of the Pitt Community College 2014-17 Strategic Plan by the campus in August, with goals, objectives, and measures to document progress related to Student Learning Success, Workforce Development and Job Readiness, Student and Community Engagement, and Technology. Setting the path for this period is vital for a large and dynamic college.
- Welcoming a number of new faculty and staff to carry on and enhance our strong record of performance at PCC. This large group included vital positions such as Vice President of Administration, Assistant VP of Academic Affairs, Assistant VP of IT, Dean of Student Enrollment Services, and Deans of Continuing Education, Construction and Industrial Technology, and Business and Computer Science. We are fortunate to have this talent here!
- Developing the detailed plan for the new Science Building and expanding the Goess Student Center to include a new Bookstore, Career Center, and Computer Lab/Student Lounge. This required the careful and creative work of many people, especially Rick Owens and Tim Strickland, Tom Gould and many science faculty.
- Strengthening relations with area employers through outreach, hosting the Align4NCWorks exchange with President Scott Ralls, and beginning a Presidential Advisory Committee for Business and Industry.
- Providing more attention to PCC Alumni, including our 2014 Commencement speaker, J. T. Tribula.
- Representation on the State Board of Community College by two members from Pitt County – Scott Shook and former SGA President La’Quon Rogers.
- Graduating our largest group of students ever in May 2014, including a ceremony in China honoring over 40 Wuxi Institute of Technology degree and
certificate completers in Machining Technology in Jiangsu Province west of Shanghai with Dean Dan Mayo, Jessica Jaimes, Justin Cole and others.

For 2015, we have much work ahead to build on this momentum. With our strong team of full and part-time faculty, staff, and community supporters, our goals are realizable if we stay the path toward improvement. The primary areas of activity will include

- Continuing to increase the completion rates of our students for degrees, certificates, and other credentials which document learning. This is at the heart of the Completion by Design effort.
- Groundbreaking for the Science Building and moving into the Law Enforcement Center near the PCC campus.
- Establishing a PCC Center in Farmville and later in Ayden.
- Advocating the NC General Assembly and Governor for campus budget priorities in the 2015-17 Biennial Budget.

**Recognitions and Accomplishments** (more recent):

**Len Van Staalduinen, Bill Hofler, Maurey Verzier, and Will Pack** led PCC students in architectural presentations for the Winterville Cemetery Beautification Project. Thanks for behind the scenes support of Alton Wadford and Dean Mark Faithful.

**Michael Stephenson, Peggy Vaughn, and RaSheeda Waddell** led students and community members in an outstanding Holiday Concert at Reimage Church.

**Wendy Perrini, Tommianne Haithcock, Renee Dawson, and Rosalie Hutchens** led the pinning of 17 Occupational Therapy Assistant graduates. PCC Alumnus Daryl Hardy was an inspirational speaker at the ceremony.

**Dr. Ray Taylor** was the speaker at ECU’s Psychology Department graduation event.

**Anthony Holsten and Amy Whitley-Anthony** directed 10 students and 6 faculty members in a creative and thoughtful rendering of a unique Christmas play.

**Michael Shreves** received the IPMA-CP (Certified Professional) credential.

**Happy Gingras and Patricia Adams** hosted impressive and well-attended student poster presentations related to student retention and success – student voices and talents abound!

**Mary Paramore, Kristin Braswell and Jerry Jones** teamed with Pitt County economic and workforce professionals in the “1000 in 100” NC Works Initiative to engage with local industries to improve communications and services for local employers.

**Rick Owens and Ernest Simons** led the launching of the Ellucian Portal – better functionality and ease of navigation will result as the interface matures in this collaborative process.

As you can see, we had much to celebrate at the end of Fall Semester. I had a chance to speak to completing students in Academic Success sections taught by Don King and Don Joyner in December. We are on the right track with our students at all levels, and I look forward to a great 2015. Best wishes to you all!

G. Dennis Massey, President