

August 1, 2016

## College Update

After a hectic July with many New Student Orientations and a host of other campus events (not to mention the very high temperatures) behind us, we are in the run-up in the next two weeks to the beginning of fall semester. I want to thank everyone who helped with advising and preparations for students and parents. I also really appreciate the extra efforts many of you are making to contact students directly this week. Things are looking good so far, but there is still much to do before fall term is up and running.

The past four months since I addressed the campus regarding Student Success and our response to the recommendations made by consultants from the Aspen Institute have been busy and productive. The Aspen report was indeed timely, as we are entering the final year of the 2014-17 Strategic Plan and our actions have given us momentum to initiate new objectives and, more importantly, document the progress we are making in student completion and success. Their suggestions were to: **Revamp the Front Door Experience of Students** and **Revitalize our Strategy for Student Completion**. With the help of a new group, the Student Success Action Council, many changes have been made:

- Integrating recruitment efforts using, in part, the VISIONS model and hiring Career Coaches who are embedded in Pitt County high schools who will work with Counselors and others to connect high school students earlier with future jobs and the skills needed for them. A new Pre-Apprenticeship program developed by the Construction and Industrial Technology Division is one example of this outreach.
- Creating a more centralized advising and support center with ten Success Navigators who will actively monitor first-year students. Technology to connect advisors with one another and with students will facilitate this network of support.
- Developing specific targets in all PCC departments, from instruction to student services to finance, IT, and maintenance, which focus upon student success. These targets will serve as benchmarks for future improvements in retention and completion.

Meanwhile, work on the Science Building is proceeding on schedule, and other capital projects are moving forward or in the process of planning. The coming year will feature new partnerships with the City of Greenville, Pitt County Schools, and East Carolina University. I look forward to sharing more information with you as programs develop.

## Recognitions and Accomplishments

- **Dean Mark Faithful** (CIT) was the lead presenter to the State Board of Community Colleges in July at their Issues Lunch. He described the “Taste of Industry” program we have done for teachers and prospective students. We will be hosting **Chair Scott Shook, System President Jimmie** Williamson, and the Board at the State Board Retreat in Greenville in October.
- Chief **Jay Shingleton** and Campus Police have completed Active Shooter training by Pitt County’s Sheriff’s Office in cooperation with PCC’s Law Enforcement Training Department. Over 300 officers from Winterville, Nash County, and other locations took advantage of this training.
- **Laurie Weston** (Transitional Studies) received \$57,360 from Workforce Investment Opportunity for English literacy and civics education in an integrated model.
- **Allison Flowers** (Developmental English) completed her MAEd in Adult Education from East Carolina University in May 2016.
- **Katelynn Speas** (Student Activities) is serving as contact leader at PCC for the Fair Elections Legal Network Campus Vote Project to promote student and employee civic engagement. PCC has been designated as one of 100 colleges which are “Voter Friendly Campuses.”
- **Rachel Bridgers** (Career Outreach Specialist) has been selected to serve on the Northeastern Career Pathways Leadership Council Executive Committee. This will connect students with jobs and careers in our region.
- **Nicholas Vick** (TASC Director) reports that the College Reading and Learning Association has certified the Tutorial and Academic Success Center as a Level I Tutor Training program.
- **Dean Kristin Braswell** (Continuing Education) has led development of a PCC Food Services Specialist certificate program at Community Crossroads Center off Dickinson Avenue in Greenville.

Again, thanks to faculty and staff who are contacting credit students with unpaid balances and also for the added instructional courses and sections to accommodate student demand. We continue to partner across departmental and divisions lines very effectively. This augurs well for the coming year.

G. Dennis Massey, President