Growing up in Kentucky, it was natural that I started playing basketball at a young age and I remain interested in the sport to this day. From about the fifth grade, I was especially interested in improving my shooting ability, as size and strength were not my strong points relative to other players, so I paid particular attention to tips from those I admired in the college ranks. Bob Pettit, Oscar Robertson, Bob Cousy and others talked about the power of visualizing the free throw, of replicating the rhythm and technique of jump shots, of practice, practice, practice. I even got my father, an airline mechanic with a shop out back with welding tools, to put together a basketball rim with a shorter diameter than the regulation to hone my eye and coordination. My point is that athletes, especially today, take many approaches to enhance performance, and they measure their progress very precisely. I never became a star, but I did have many times when I experienced the benefits of my progress before passing basketball on to other pastimes.

Over the past year, I have served as co-chair of the NC Colleges’ Performance Measures Committee. We have taken our System’s twelve years of experience with Critical Success Factors and fashioned eight areas for individual colleges to test their progress. Our goal is to present to the General Assembly’s Joint Education Oversight Committee next March a proposal for a modified approach to identifying how we gauge ourselves in preparing students for success. The eight measures approved by the NC Community College Presidents last week are attached to this Update. The Performance Measures Committee still has more work to do – determining how high-performing colleges will be identified, and, the toughest of all, locating a stable and continuous source of performance funding which can serve as an incentive for colleges. Like the free throw, it is a work in progress, and we will adjust and even add on to the measures as time goes on, but the results will benefit our students and our communities. I will keep you posted on how the process unfolds.

A Pitt Community College Institutional Effectiveness Committee is currently being formed. This group, with rotating members from the faculty and staff, will review our campus progress in the NC Performance Measures as well as periodically look at the results of Key Performance Indicators developed by the Planning and Research staff. If you are interested in serving on this new committee or if you know of someone to nominate for consideration, please contact Dr. Brian Miller at 493-7421. This will be an important group to review how we as a campus are promoting student success, which is more important than ever as we prepare for our SACS reaccreditation and start a new three-year Strategic Plan at Pitt Community College.

**Recognitions and Accomplishments**

- Tyree Walker, Director of Human Resources at University Health Systems, was reappointed to another four-year term on the Board of Trustees by Governor Beverly Perdue.
• Ms. Scotsha Brown, Compensatory Education student, was recognized at the Eastern Carolina Vocational Center’s 46th Anniversary Celebration as the Employee Success Story of the Year. Thanks to Jackie Jones Dickens in Comp Ed for nominating her!
• Jim Ensor, Director, Small Business Center, will join Greenville city personnel in receiving the Governor’s Innovative Small Business Community Award.
• Ryan Willhite and BLET staff and students for winning the Crime Stoppers Video Award in the recent Telethon. All that conditioning paid off!!
• Kristen Brabble and Clifton Maddox were elected as two of the four student members of the National Executive Committee of Gamma Beta Phi Honors Society.
• Thanks to all who volunteered to assist with the PCC Open House in October and with our booth at the Pitt County Fair. These events bring more awareness of PCC to the community as well as to prospective students. They definitely contribute towards Goal One of our Strategic Plan, “Student and Community Access.”

Finally, if you have not made a pledge of support for the United Way campaign, please consider doing so in the next few days before the campaign concludes. This effort helps so many agencies and individuals in our county and region. As a former board member, I have seen firsthand the good which United Way has helped to achieve. This is yet another way in which we connect as a campus to our community.

G. Dennis Massey, President