PITT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2022-2023 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING PEOPLE FOR SUCCESS

PUBLISHED BY
PITT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AND **THE PCC FOUNDATION**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, and thank you for taking a moment from your day to reflect upon the 2022-23 academic year at Pitt Community College! Though it's difficult to encapsulate an entire year in just a few pages, we've done our best to feature the highlights in this publication.

When I look back on 2022-23, I think of it as a period of tremendous achievement for PCC, marked by moments of celebration and growth but tinged by the profound loss of Dr. Thomas Gould, our Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Services.

From his first day at Pitt in 2013 to his unexpected passing in February, Dr. Gould was focused on student success. Though we miss his leadership and quick wit, we're doing our best to honor his memory by ensuring student success remains at the core of every program and service we offer.

In Memoriam, Dr. Thomas E. Gould

Though there were many highlights in 2022-23, the most significant was our reaffirmation of accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), a process that was 10 years in the making. I'm extremely proud of this achievement, and I'm pleased PCC will carry the SACSCOC seal of approval for the next 10 years.

That certainly doesn't mean PCC will be taking it easy until 2033. We know greatness is a choice people make, not an inherited trait. And we understand change is constant and demands a proactive response. As a result, we're already taking steps to build upon our accreditation success by evaluating and fine-tuning our interactions with students, from recruiting to graduation, to develop strategies that ensure the educational programs and services we offer remain accessible to all and provide a transformative learning experience.

As PCC president, I assure you students will always come first in everything we do. I can also promise the college will continually strive to strengthen its community ties, work tirelessly to attract and retain students, and break down barriers to facilitate successful completion of credentials.

I thank you for your support of PCC and hope you enjoy this look back on the 2022-23 academic year.

Dr. Lawrence L. Rouse
President, Pitt Community College

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INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

SACSCOC Reaffirms PCC's Accreditation after Extensive Review Process

Of the many highlights for Pitt Community College from the 2022-23 academic year, one of the most significant occurred in June 2023, when the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmed its accreditation.

Though PCC administrators had been expecting the news for nearly nine months, it was still a relief when the SACSCOC Board of Trustees officially voted to put their organization's seal of approval on Pitt for the next 10 years. It was essentially the culmination of a process that began shortly after the college's last successful reaffirmation bid in June 2013.

"Our work to ensure the college maintains SACSCOC accreditation never truly ends; it's one marathon after another," PCC President Lawrence L. Rouse said. "Earning reaffirmation of accreditation from SACSCOC is testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff and students and the tremendous leadership of Vice President of Planning & Research Brian Miller, who led our reaffirmation effort, and PCC Board of Trustees Chairman Gary Evans."

An eight-member SACSCOC Reaffirmation Committee spent nearly a week at PCC in September 2022, conducting interviews with employees and students and reviewing documentation. At the conclusion of their visit, committee members said they had "no recommendations" for Pitt administrators to address with regard to reaccreditation. They also deemed the college's Quality Enhancement Plan, which focuses on increasing online student success and is a key reaccreditation component, to be fully compliant.

"That was the best possible news we could have received .... ," Rouse said. "Having no recommendations essentially told us our accreditation had been renewed for another 10 years, but it wasn't official until the SACSCOC Board of Trustees voted on it in June."

Rouse said accreditation is a U.S. Department of Education requirement that compels colleges and universities to continually improve their educational programs and student support services. Meeting SACSCOC's accrediting standards, he said, allows PCC students to

apply for federal student aid and transfer course credits they earn at Pitt to other schools.

By accepting SACSCOC accreditation, PCC must maintain the organization's standards and undergo a peer review every 10 years. SACSCOC will conduct a fifth-year review at Pitt in 2028, so college personnel can begin focusing on everything needed to be done for PCC's next bid for reaffirmation of accreditation in 2033.

College Holds Pair of Graduation Ceremonies to Celebrate Student Success

PCC held graduation in December and May to celebrate the achievements of more than 1,330 students who completed degrees, diplomas and/or certificates during the 2022-23 academic year.

"It's important for us to recognize the hard work and sacrifices students make to earn academic credentials," President Rouse said.

"Many of the graduates we celebrated in 2022-23 began their pursuit of higher education at the height of a pandemic. That's a powerful statement about their resolve and dedication."

Fall Commencement took place at Greenville's Koinonia Christian Center with local businessman Gregg Green serving as graduation speaker. Spring graduation was held in East Carolina University's Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum with PCC Student Government Association President Tahira Gatson providing graduation remarks.

Report Shows Improvement to Completion, Retention and Persistence Rates

PCC administrators received a report in October showing improvement to the college's six-year completion, retention and persistence rates, as well as the percentage of students completing at least 24 credits within an academic year.

According to the report, 49.57% of students who started at Pitt in the fall of 2015 completed an educational credential at an institution of higher learning by the fall of 2021. That's PCC's best-ever six-year completion rate, and it exceeded the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) rate by 7.4%.

In addition to well-established transfer ties and articulation agreements emphasizing completion of Pitt curricula prior to transfer, PCC administrators said the improved success rate could be attributed to better academic advising, professional development for employees, and comprehensive student support services, including loaner laptops and expanded in-person and online tutorial services.

PCC academic deans said the college's adoption of grade forgiveness and other student-focused policies positively impacted student success. They also mentioned increased course availability and delivery options.

TASC Earns Significant Certification

By demonstrating sound hiring and selection practices, planned training experiences, tutor experience, and a consistent evaluation process over the course of a year, Pitt's Tutorial and Academic Support Center earned Level I International Tutor Training Program Certification.

Granted by the College Reading and Learning Association, the certification is an internationally-accepted standard of skills and training for tutors. It essentially means PCC students can rest assured knowing they are being assisted by tutors trained in effective and holistic learning strategies, communication skills, and structuring the tutoring/learning assistance experience.

STUDENT DATA FOR 2022-2023

CURRICULUM STUDENTS **9,824**

55% of Total* **Average Age – 23 Years**

Female	61%
Male	39%
Minority	48%**
Employed Full- or Part-Time	42%

CONTINUING EDUCATION STUDENTS **8,003**

45% of Total* **Average Age – 37 Years**

Female	44%
Male	56%
Minority	46%**
Employed Full- or Part-Time	67%

*Note: Students enrolled as both Curriculum (CU) and Continuing Education (CE) were excluded from the percent of total calculations for CU and CE.

**Students who self-identified as other/unknown were excluded from the percent of total calculations.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

A New Face for Lifelong Learning

Greenville's Shirley Jones became a local social media sensation in the spring of 2023, when people learned she was working toward a GED at 84 years old.

Well-wishers declared their admiration and offered Jones encouragement after her picture was posted on the PCC Facebook page in recognition of her induction into the National Adult Honors Society. Jones explained that when her husband passed away in March, she decided it was finally time to return to school and finish a GED.

PCC Transitional Studies personnel say Jones is a great classmate to her fellow students, as she continues to pursue the credential. They describe her as determined, persistent and "sharp as a tack."

PCC Transfer Students Earn Prestigious Scholarship

Three years after Jonah Ghebremichael became the first PCC graduate chosen to participate in N.C. State University's Goodnight Scholars Program, three more Pitt students followed suit.

Liz Edwards, Bailey Walters and Hanh Tran were all selected to participate in the prestigious scholarship program, which was established in 2008 to provide financial assistance to North Carolina students from low- and middle-income families who are studying STEM disciplines or affiliated education majors. It is NCSU's largest full-tuition scholarship program.

Edwards earned an Associate in Science Degree in May. She is pursuing a bachelor's in horticulture science with a concentration in plant breeding and biotechnology.

Tran, who was one of just 417 college students nationally to earn a 2022 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, received an Associate in Science from PCC. She wants to become a biomedical engineer.

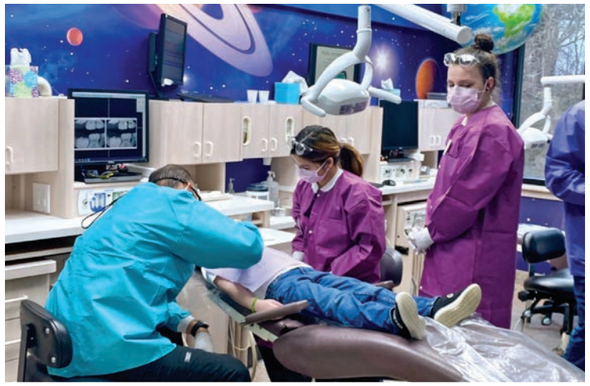
Walters completed an Associate in Arts Degree from Pitt as a Farmville Central High School student through North Carolina's Career & College Promise program. She is majoring in polymer and color chemistry with a medical sciences concentration.

Dental Assisting Students Help 'Give Kids a Smile'

Dental Assisting students gained valuable hands-on experience while giving back to the community through their participation in the American Dental Association Foundation's Give Kids A Smile Day.

In February, 11 students visited Eastern Orthodontics & Pediatric Dentistry with their instructors to assist dentists and other dental personnel with providing free oral health care to children in need. In a four-hour window, the group did its part to ensure 35 children came away with healthy smiles.

"It is a huge learning experience for our students, who would not get pediatric dentistry experience otherwise," said PCC Dental Assisting Program Director Shelby Brothers. "Volunteering also allows our students to connect with the community and provides a healthy boost to their self-confidence, self-esteem and life satisfaction." Brothers said her students assisted with dental procedures, including examinations, X-Rays, fillings and extractions during their visit. She said they also spoke with children and parents throughout the event to make sure they were comfortable.



Pitt Students Help Youngsters Prepare for Higher Education

Throughout the summer of 2022, PCC instructors and students visited Greenville's The Oakwood School to lead elementary and middle school students through interactive, hands-on demonstrations that opened their eyes to educational and career opportunities.

The visits came as part of Oakwood's Horizons program, a tuition-free summer enrichment initiative focused on literacy and STEM programming to advance educational equity. The program helps Pitt County Schools students from under-resourced families develop a love of learning while building a support network that promotes social and academic growth.

"… It's always nice to talk with and encourage young learners to think about career exploration and education after high school," PCC administrator Dan Mayo said. "… It wasn't a typical summer camp experience, but it was a great fit for curious young learners."

PCC visits featured North Carolina's BioNetwork, art and music presentations, and mobile teaching lab tours. There were also discussions of Construction & Industrial Technology curricula, fire-rescue training, law enforcement and horticulture. During one visit, students from six different health sciences programs led youngsters through a variety of demonstrations, including CPR practice on manikins, toothbrushing and flossing techniques, and exercises to help people with disabilities perform activities of daily living.

CIT Students Attend National Conference

CIT students and employees traveled to Atlanta in June to attend the 2023 SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference and participate in an immersive educational experience that asked them to navigate four real-world construction scenarios.

An estimated 15,000 people attended the conference, which featured more than 100 competitions and opportunities for students to engage with top trade, technical and skilled service professionals.

Dennis Marshall, chair of PCC's Electrical Systems Technology Department, accompanied the students and said they benefited greatly from their participation in the SkillsUSA activities and a visit to a JE Dunn Construction live-build project in downtown Atlanta. He said they also took part in employability training that featured tips on resume preparation and mock interviews with business and industry representatives.

Marshall said the trip gave students valuable opportunities to network with industry partners and recruiters seeking skilled tradespeople. He said several students were promised opportunities to interview for employment once they have completed their training at PCC.

3,946
HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON CAMPUS

Office of **Teaching & Learning**

280*
FACULTY & STAFF PARTICIPANTS

6,129
HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERED OFF CAMPUS

*UNDUPLICATED HEADCOUNT

COLLEGE CUTS RIBBON ON SMITH CENTER

On a warm spring afternoon, Pitt Community College officially opened its Eddie & Jo Allison Smith Center for Student Advancement with a ribbon-cutting ceremony inside the facility's Chris Smith Multipurpose Room.

With one snip of a royal blue ribbon, PCC administrators – joined by Grady-White Boats owner Eddie Smith and individuals key to the building's creation – commemorated the opening of a facility that was a long time in the making. Nearly four years passed between the time the college broke ground at the Smith Center site and the building's April 6 dedication.

The global pandemic, which significantly increased the cost of construction materials, delayed the start of the Smith Center's construction. But once site preparations got underway in October 2021, Barnhill Contracting Company maintained a steady pace to get the $14 million-project completed.

"We have been at this quite a while," PCC President Lawrence Rouse told those in attendance for the ribbon-cutting. "I believe we did a (groundbreaking) in 2019, so it's been a labor of love trying to get it here. But once we got started, (the contractor) was able to finish the building on time as well as on budget, so we're delighted about that."

Designed by MHAworks, the 28,000-square-foot Smith Center houses PCC's Institutional Advancement Division, which includes the PCC Foundation and the college's marketing and media relations departments. It's also home to the VISIONS Career Development and Scholarship Program and the Slocum-Bunch Veterans Center, which offers support services to Pitt's student veteran population.

In addition to providing much-needed space for employee offices and meeting rooms for the PCC Foundation Board, VISIONS and PCC Student Ambassadors Program, the Smith Center contributes to the college's ability to develop partnerships and generate resources that make higher education possible for everyone.

Most of the funding for the Smith Center's construction was raised through the NC Connect Bond North Carolina voters approved in 2016 and a PCC Foundation capital campaign that began the following year. It also came from Smith, who made a sizeable contribution through his Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Family Foundation to secure naming rights for the building. A longtime PCC supporter, Smith contributed to the Herman Simon Building's construction and has funded VISIONS since 2004, when he helped start the program to reduce the dropout rate among Pitt County high school students. He said he hoped the Smith Center would serve PCC well "for many generations" and help "graduate hundreds, even thousands, of VISIONS students" in the years to come.

"We've invested in education as a family for many, many years — from early childhood all the way through college," Smith said. "But we really honestly feel that the biggest bang for our buck comes at the community college level, and this building is just another step in the tremendous growth of this institution."

Along with the Michael Amman Jr. Gallery in the front lobby area, the Smith Center also features the TowneBank Patio and Bubba & Barbara Rawl Patio Garden adjacent to the rear parking lot.

NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Cybersecurity Internship Benefitting Students and Community

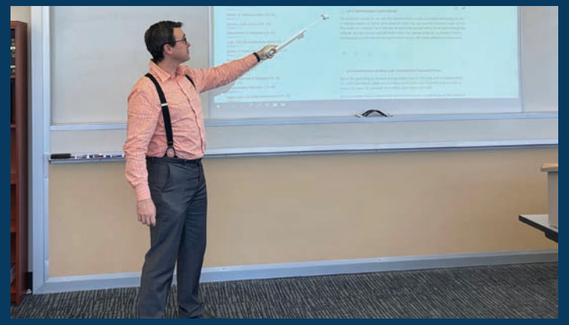
A new internship launched in July 2022 is strengthening workforce development and community partnerships by giving PCC cybersecurity students hands-on experience with helping local businesses secure their financial and intellectual property assets from cyberthreats.

The new CyberStart-sponsored initiative places interns in small- and medium-sized businesses to cultivate cybersecurity compliance practices and conduct cybersecurity assessments. The interns come at no cost to the businesses, since their services are provided through a $2 million-federal grant the N.C. Partnership for Cybersecurity Excellence received in 2021 to help address cyber threats impeding the state's economic growth and entrepreneurial prosperity.

Students, Area Businesses Enjoy Academic-Specific Career Fair

Last fall, PCC invited local business and industry representatives to visit the Craig M. Goess CIT Building and speak with students enrolled in Construction and Industrial Technology programs. All told, 12 businesses, including several construction companies, Greenville Utilities Commission, Grady-White Boats, Thermo Fisher Scientific and World Cat Boats, came out to discuss jobs, internships and apprenticeships with 65 future tradespeople.

A number of the employers said they enjoyed the interaction with students and that they favored academic-specific job fairs over general career fairs featuring a wide variety of businesses and industries.



Rare Partnership Results in High-Demand Certification Course

PCC's mission to provide quality educational programming despite the pandemic led to new instructional delivery methods and collaborations. One of them emerged in August 2022, when Pitt's Paralegal Technology curriculum partnered with its Fire-Rescue continuing education program to offer a highly-sought "Law and Administration" course.

Using a HyFlex format that allows students to take the course in person or online synchronously, Paralegal Technology Instructor Chris Young taught more than 30 students – half in the classroom and the rest remotely through video conferencing technology. All course materials were available to students electronically, and their reviews of the class were positive.

Even though Paralegal Technology and Fire-Rescue are part of PCC's Public Services & Fine Arts Division, collaborations between degree curricula and continuing education professional development programs are rare. "I believe that this is the first time any school has given students the option to attend the 'Law and Administration' course in person or remotely," Young said.

Connecting Prospective Real Estate Agents with Professionals in the Field

In September 2022, PCC organized a free networking event to give people interested in real estate careers a chance to discuss them with professionals. Attendees were able to establish important connections for success and learn about Pitt's real estate workforce development program, real estate licensing requirements and career options within the industry.

EMPLOYEE ACHIEVEMENTS

Top Faculty and Staff Awards

PCC celebrated employee achievements in May with a luncheon featuring the presentation of the 2023 Joan and Ed Warren Staff Employee of the Year Award to Happy Gingras and the Joseph E. Downing Award for Excellence in Teaching to Pat Jackson.

Gingras, who is PCC's Senior Director of Teaching & Learning, was noted for her networking capabilities, teamwork, and quality customer service. Her 'can-do' attitude, willingness to serve on campus committees, and assistance to new employees were also mentioned.

"I am honored to receive this award, but I could not do what I do without all of the talented people I work with," Gingras said. "So, I say thanks to each of you, and I would like to send extra appreciation to my Distance Learning/Teaching and Learning team and the Curriculum and Instruction Division led by Lori Preast."

Jackson, who chairs the college's University Transfer and Foreign Language Department, won Pitt's top teaching honor for her willingness to assist students in and out of the classroom. A former student described her "in-depth" lessons and said she "firmly" believed Jackson deserved the award.

For Jackson, teaching entails interactions that help students develop educationally and personally. "In teaching, academics is important, but I want to see my student as a 'person' who needs my guidance and support in all areas of their lives," she said. "When a student is connected and engaged, they have the opportunity to be successful both in the classroom and grow in their personal lives."

This year's employee appreciation program also featured college administrators presenting service awards to 53 employees with a combined 680 years of service to PCC.

Cisco Certification

IT instructors Shelley Allen and Joseph Jeansonne earned Cisco Networking Academy certifications this spring, recognizing them as experts in the field of networking education. Allen was named an Advanced Level Instructor, meaning she placed in the top 25 percent of instructors globally with regard to student feedback and performance. Jeansonne was recognized as an Expert Level Instructor, meaning his achievements were among the top 10 percent of instructors globally, based on the same measures.

Jones Presents at Symposium for International Educators

In March, PCC Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Services Brian Jones gave a presentation on Pitt's Adult Learning Center (ALC) to educators attending the League for Innovation in the Community College's 2023 Innovations Conference in Tempe, Ariz.

Jones said it was an opportunity for him to share information on PCC's adult learner support services with community college professionals from around the globe. It was also a chance for him to pick up ideas from other institutions that can be incorporated into Pitt's ALC services and other areas.

Fulbright Scholars

In June, Pitt's Dan Mayo and Scott Temple were notified they'd received Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program awards to visit Germany and Mexico, respectively. Their participation in the prestigious program allows them to share knowledge and foster meaningful connections between the United States and the nations they visit, while gathering information to contribute to the college's effort to prepare students for work in a global economy.

Dan Mayo

Scott Temple

"As educators, we're obligated to do our very best to prepare our students for the global economy," said Mayo, who is serving as interim executive vice president of Academic Affairs and Student Services. "We want them to have knowledge of other world regions and a healthy respect for other cultures. We also want to be certain we have prepared them for work in cross-cultural environments, either abroad or right here in eastern North Carolina."

Temple, an English and humanities instructor, visited Mexico in July to examine historic and contemporary issues impacting the country's relationship with the United States and discuss ongoing and future binational learning initiatives. One of his goals was to gain a better understanding of Mexican citizens and cultures and use the information to enhance his humanities classes and develop an innovative curriculum he can share with students, faculty and staff.

"In addition to teaching, connecting my research to the greater community is why I am so passionate to serve as a community college instructor," he said.

Woman of Substance

During Women's History Month, Senior Director of Student Advocacy Kimberly Williamson received the 2023 Woman of Substance Award in recognition of her campus and community involvement, caring attitude, and willingness to go the extra mile.

For more than 20 years, Williamson has provided leadership to the enrollment and student support services personnel she's supervised. Co-workers say she is a "team-oriented" and "highly-respected" leader who challenges staff she supervises to "make data-driven decisions" and build campus partnerships that lead to improved student services.

"I am grateful to work with dedicated people each day and people who have a heart for students," Williamson said.

Bray Earns Financial Aid Certification

PCC Financial Aid Director Lee Bray passed a two-hour exam covering all aspects of financial aid and administrative capability to earn the prestigious and somewhat rare FAAC designation from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. The certification affirms Bray has the foundational knowledge needed to effectively administer Title IV federal student aid programs at colleges and universities across the country as a financial aid professional.

PCC Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Services Brian Jones said Bray's certification is significant. "There are only 388 financial aid directors in the nation who hold this designation and very few within the community college landscape," he said, adding that Bray is certified for the next three years.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

College Receives Grant to Enhance Biotech Programming

PCC received more than $1 million in federal grant funding in September 2022 to expand its biotechnology program. The funds came through the Accelerate NC – Life Sciences Manufacturing coalition's effort to develop biotech talent across North Carolina and extend opportunities to undeserved and historically-excluded communities.

The total grant budget, which included a 20%-match from Pitt, was more than $1.26 million over a three-year period. In addition to faculty training, equipment, supplies and travel, there was funding for a new biotechnology faculty member, project liaison and 'pathways equity navigator' tasked with creating a biotech career pathway for underserved student populations.

Campus Hosts SkillsUSA Regional Rally

PCC's campus was bustling more than usual March 3, when approximately 400 high school students from throughout eastern North Carolina came out to demonstrate their career and technical education skills as part of the 2023 SkillsUSA North Carolina East Regional Rally.

The event featured more than 50 competitions in various trades. There were also leadership and speaking contests, debates, display and design competitions, and a quiz bowl.

Rally organizers say it was a great way for Pitt to support career and technical education while highlighting its programming, facilities, equipment and knowledgeable instructors.

Students Enjoy Unique Opportunity to Hear from DC Comics Art Director

PCC students preparing for fine arts and graphic design careers had a unique opportunity to hear Janice Walker, senior art director with DC Entertainment's Creative Affairs Division, discuss her leadership role with the production arm of DC Comics — one of the nation's largest entertainment industry companies.

Walker, who visited campus in November, has spent nearly four decades with DC Entertainment, which is responsible for bringing the world superheroes and villains, like Superman, Batman, The Joker and Lex Luthor. PCC faculty said her presentation added validity to what students were learning in the classroom and "really brought the material to life." They were impressed she stayed long after her presentation ended to speak with students one-on-one.

College Helping Former Inmates Reenter Community

President Rouse updated Pitt County Commissioners in January on the Local Reentry Council's (LRC) efforts to reduce recidivism. He said in the two years after PCC was named the LRC's intermediary agency, the reentry program had received 340 referrals from various local agencies. Of the many obstacles former inmates must overcome to successfully rejoin their communities, homelessness, unemployment, substance abuse, transportation, and mental health issues were the most prevalent. Preparing them for gainful employment is crucial to their success, as statistics show those who receive training and education are five times less likely to reoffend than those who don't.

In the fall of 2022, commissioners designated $1.8 million for PCC to continue overseeing the LRC for the next 18 years. The funding is taken from Pitt County's share of a roughly $26 billion-national opioid settlement and distributed to the college at a rate of $100,000 per year.

United Way Recognizes Pitt Employees for Decade of Support

Pitt County United Way representatives visited PCC in February to express their gratitude for the many years of support faculty and staff have shown their organization.

Each year, the college holds a United Way fundraiser on campus. Over the past 10 years, employees have raised $165,090 through those drives, making Pitt one of the charitable organization's top-10 "Decade of Giving" sponsors.

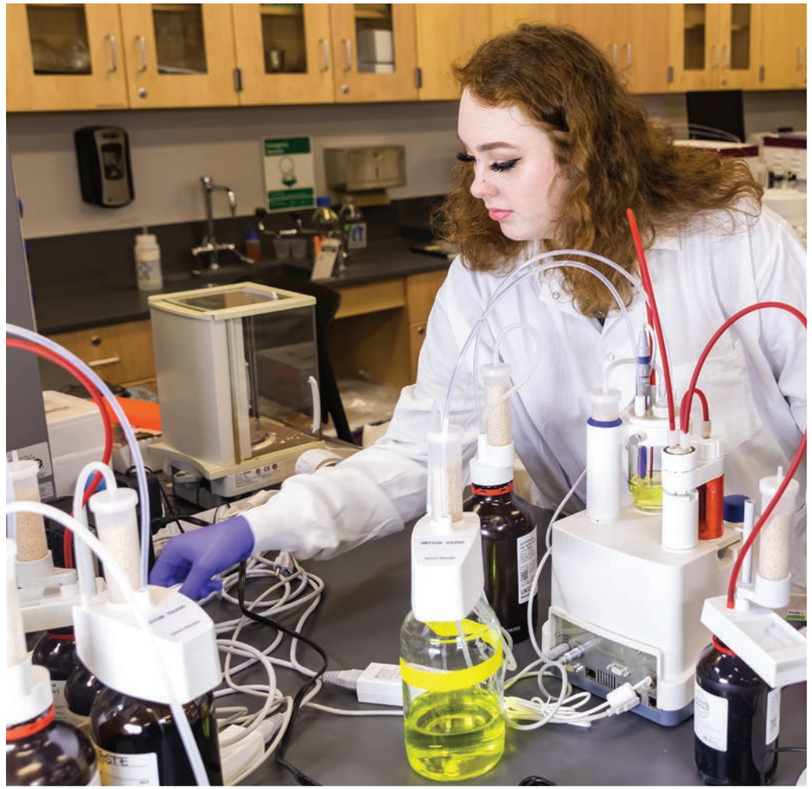
City of Greenville Funds Training Partnership

City of Greenville representatives presented a $20,000-check to PCC President Lawrence L. Rouse in August 2022 to fund an educational partnership that's been helping local residents in financial need develop skills leading to jobs.

Since the 2018-19 academic year, the city has allocated $100,000 to support Pitt's Outreach & Community Engagement initiatives and grow eastern North Carolina's economic hub. The funding has provided short-term certificate training to nearly 430 students preparing for work in construction trades, including plumbing, welding, masonry and HVAC, and health care, such as Nurse Aide I and II and pharmaceutical technician.

PCC Partners with PBS to Offer Early Childhood Seminar

PCC partnered with PBS North Carolina Education in March to provide free professional development training for early childhood educators. The seminar, titled "Sparking Curiosity in the Classroom with Elinor Wonders Why," was part of PBS's Playful Learning Workshop Series 2023. Participants learned how to spark students' curiosity and incorporate science, literacy and social-emotional learning into their classrooms. They also discovered ways that families can continue the learning at home.



BULLDOG ATHLETICS

Successful in the Classrooms and on the Fields!

The NJCAA released its annual All-Academic teams this summer to honor student-athletes at the nation's two-year colleges for posting overall GPAs of 3.60 or higher during the 2022-23 academic year, including 22 Pitt Community College Bulldogs.

Among PCC's honorees were nine who garnered First-Team NJCAA honors for having 4.0 GPAs. Nine more were part of the Second Team (3.80-3.99 GPA), and four earned Third-Team recognition (3.60-3.79 GPA).

"It shows that our student-athletes are not only committed to achieving their athletic goals, they are pursuing academic excellence as well," said PCC Athletics Director Dawn Manning. She added that Pitt's coaches and support staff strive to "create a culture of success" by teaching players life skills and stressing the importance of good character, establishing relationships and being active in the community.

Of Pitt's first-teamers, five were from baseball: Michael Gordon, Parks Ledwell, Caleb May, Matt Osterman and Martin Zelenka. Three volleyball players – Sara Daughtry, Dakota Newberry and Bailey Wood – were also on the First Team, along with softball's Brianna Knapper.

Representing Pitt on the Second Team were baseball's Thomas Bowman, Ryker Galaska, Will Gervase, Will Walker, Hunter Whitten and Evan Wyrick. Softball's Samantha Taylor was a second-teamer, as were volleyball players Emily Fedderson and Lyndsay Williams.

Four baseball players earned Third-Team honors: Landen Harris, Archie Herring, Landon Howard and Trent Pulliam.

In addition to individual academic honors, the NJCAA recognized its 2022-23 Academic Teams of the Year. PCC baseball (3.41 GPA) and volleyball (3.17 GPA) were among the teams honored by the organization.

For PCC Baseball Coach Tommy Eason, emphasizing academic success is key to helping student-athletics become model citizens. "Our program does it the right way, on and off the field," he said.

A total of 33 student-athletes, representing all four PCC intercollegiate athletic teams, graduated in May. Combined, the 17 baseball, nine men's basketball, four softball and three volleyball players recorded a 3.33 GPA.

"Each year, (PCC student-athletes) set the bar for the next, and they push themselves to be better," said PCC Athletics Academic Advisor Brooke Green. "Seeing all of the graduates walk across the stage this year was a testament to the hard work they have put in."

All four PCC sports teams recorded winning records during the 2022-23 academic year, and several Bulldogs earned postseason honors for their outstanding play. The following is a look back at each team's experience during the 2022-23 sports season:

Baseball

In his 17th season as coach, Eason's Bulldogs went 28-15 overall, 20-10 in the Region 10 Conference. The Bulldogs won their first two games of the conference tournament before falling to Catawba Valley and Lenoir Community College in consecutive games to close out the season.

Several former players will continue their baseball careers at four-year schools in 2024, including Galaska (UNC-Chapel Hill), Zelenka (UNC-Wilmington) and J.J. Rivera (Charleston Southern).

Basketball

After a valiant run through the Region 10 Tournament came up just short of a championship trophy, PCC Basketball's season officially ended a week later with a 101-77 loss to Florida Gateway College in the DII NJCAA South Atlantic District B Championship Game. Darrick Mullins finished his 12th season as head coach of the Bulldogs with a 19-15 overall mark.

One highlight from the 2022-23 campaign came in March, when PCC guard Avery Huggins was named Region 10 DII Player of the Year. The 6-5 sophomore averaged 20.1 points, 12.1 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 4.2 blocks per game to earn the recognition.

Softball

In her first season as head coach of PCC's softball program, Amy Gardner led the Bulldogs to a 20-16 overall record. A 10-game winning streak was the highlight of Pitt's 2022-23 campaign, which came to an end with consecutive losses to Cleveland Community College in the first round of the Region 10 Conference Tournament.

Three Bulldogs earned All-Region 10 Honors: outfielders Samantha Taylor and Kate Smith and utility player Lindsey Curlings. Taylor was a First-Team selection, after batting .488 with 33 RBIs, 16 doubles and 14 stolen bases. Smith batted .339 with 15 home runs to earn Second-Team honors, and Curlings joined her on the Second Team with a .327 batting average and 8-6 pitching record.

Volleyball

Coach Norman Cabacar's third season at PCC may have ended short of the postseason, but his Bulldogs did post a 13-9 record, which included a 3-2 victory over Louisburg College in their final game.

The 2022 Bulldogs featured 11 newcomers joining four players returning from a squad that went 10-8 overall in 2021. One of those returnees, Sara Daughtry, earned 2nd Team All-Region 10 honors for her accomplishments as a sophomore setter/right-side hitter.

Daughtry finished the season leading the Bulldogs in sets played (74), kills (177), kills per set (2.39), total attacks (529), service aces (35), block assists (14), and points (224).

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION BOARD

The pages within this publication are a tremendous record of what we managed to accomplish together in 2022-23! As you can see, it was a great year for Pitt Community College and the PCC Foundation – and much of that is because of you, our donors and partners, providing time, money and leadership to help students achieve their goals.

The Foundation's mission has always been identifying and assisting individuals seeking a better quality of life through higher education. Due to your generous support, we've been able to ensure they receive the training, resources and platforms they need to make their dreams come true.

PCC Foundation Board members are extremely excited about our students' success in the classroom and community. We realize these hard-workers comprise the cornerstone of our community's future workforce and take pride knowing PCC graduates are already working and succeeding in a multitude of professions throughout Pitt County.

While there are many ways to support the PCC Foundation, I ask that you consider contributing this year in a special way, perhaps through a gift commemorating an anniversary or birthday, or as a tribute to a loved one who has passed away. Not only would it be a unique demonstration of your love and appreciation, it would go a long way toward supporting PCC students, programs and services.

You can also help our Foundation grow by attending our special events, contributing to our Annual Fund Campaign, developing a planned gift, initiating a scholarship or program fund and/or making a major gift to name a PCC facility. To learn more about how you can impact our college and community, visit pittccfoundation.com or call (252) 493-7210.

In closing, I'll leave you with this thought: we are stronger as a community when we work together to meet our city's and region's challenges. Supporting higher education goes a long way toward resolving many of those issues, and I thank you for choosing to be part of the solution!

Randy Collier
Chairman, PCC Foundation

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$4,716,552
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$360,194
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$5,419,924

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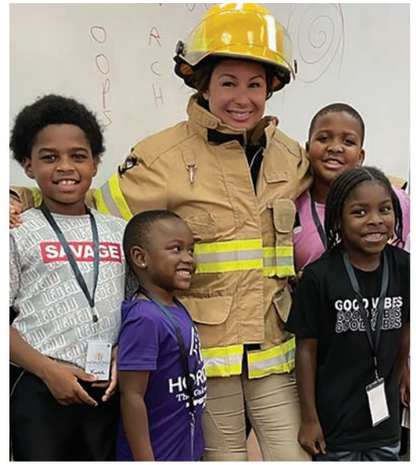

21ST ANNUAL DOWN EAST HOLIDAY SHOW

When the curtain closed on the 2022 Down East Holiday Show, PCC Foundation officials couldn't help but feel a tremendous sense of appreciation for the overwhelming support the community showed their largest annual fundraiser.

Between Nov. 3-6, nearly 10,500 people came out to the Greenville Convention Center to find unique gifts and services among nearly 200 vendors in preparation for the approaching holiday season. In doing so, they helped raise $144,779.16 for PCC student scholarships and educational activities.

"With the rising cost of living, particularly with regard to transportation and food, the need among PCC students has probably never been greater, which is why we're so thankful to the good people who came out to the 2022 Holiday Show," PCC Foundation Executive Director Beth Sigmon said. "Every dollar raised through the event supports PCC's mission to 'educate and empower people for success.'"

Last year's Holiday Show started strong, with more than 1,500 taking part in a special Thursday night of shopping strictly for adults. PCC Special Events Coordinator Jennifer Vogt said the turnout nearly matched the record-setting 1,566 shoppers who came out for the 2021 opener. That momentum, she said, carried into the weekend, as Saturday's show date drew 3,435 shoppers to the convention center — the highest single-day attendance mark for the 2022 fundraiser.

Vogt says the Holiday Show has become an eastern North Carolina holiday tradition that makes a substantial impact on the PCC Foundation, Pitt Community College and local small businesses.

"Many of our vendors said their sales were up each day of the 2022 show, and a lot of them even sold out of products," she said. "The event was a tremendous success, thanks to the community's support and the 420 volunteers, including PCC retirees, current faculty and staff, students and board members, who were so generous to us with their time and energy." The 2023 Down East Holiday Show will take place Nov. 2-5 at the Greenville Convention Center.

THE ANNUAL
DOWN EAST
HOLIDAY
SHOW

SPRING FUNDRAISER 2023

The PCC Foundation enjoyed the meeting space offered by the Eddie & Jo Allison Smith Center for Student Advancement by holding its spring fundraiser in the facility's Chris Smith Multipurpose Room.

Titled "Building Futures in our Backyard," the April 14 event generated more than $29,000 for PCC student scholarships. It was the very first Foundation fundraiser to be held in the 28,000-square-foot Smith Center, which is home to Pitt's Institutional Advancement Division and Slocum-Bunch Veterans Center.

"We'd been looking forward to the Smith Center's completion for quite a while, so it was exciting to finally have the opportunity to host a fundraising event there and celebrate the opening of such a wonderful facility with the college's most ardent supporters," said PCC Events Coordinator Jennifer Vogt.

In addition to PCC President Lawrence Rouse sharing plans for Pitt's future growth, which will literally take place in the Smith Center's backyard, the event featured a social hour under a large tent set up in the center's Townebank Patio. That was followed by dinner and a silent auction that included items from Lautares Jewelers and Sam Jones BBQ, as well as a five-night stay at a 6,500-square-foot mountaintop home in Banner Elk.

The fundraiser also featured remarks from PCC Foundation Board Chairman Randy Collier, PCC Trustees Chairman Gary Evans, Greenville ENC Alliance President Josh Lewis, and First Citizen Wealth Management's Hank Dunbar. PCC student Soniya Newsome also took the stage to talk about how Pitt's VISIONS Career Development and Scholarship Program had impacted her life.

"Our speakers did a fantastic job of explaining the importance of workforce development and the ways Pitt Community College contributes to that mission," Vogt said. "They also provided insight on the PCC Foundation's important role in making higher education possible for individuals in need of financial assistance."

Foundation Donors

The PCC Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following donors for the July 2022-June 2023 fiscal year.

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University Transfer Student Camila Torres

Linwood & Vannie Rouse Create Lasting Legacy through Planned PCC Foundation Gift

It's been eight years since Vannie Rouse passed away at 93 years old and 30 since her husband, Linwood, died at age 78, but the couple's support for their hometown and higher education continues unabated.

Through a $400,000-planned gift to the PCC Foundation, the Rouses established an endowed scholarship that is keeping their memory alive while helping Pitt County high school graduates achieve their college and career goals. This year, 25 members of the Class of 2023—representing seven Pitt County public and private high schools—received $1,000 each through the Linwood and Vannie Rouse Endowed Scholarship to help pay for their PCC tuition and fees.

"Planned giving is extremely important to our mission of supporting Pitt Community College students," says PCC Foundation Executive Director Beth Sigmon. "By establishing scholarship endowments through meaningful estate gifts, as Linwood and Vannie Rouse did almost a decade ago, donors create a lasting legacy of their values and beliefs and positively impact the lives of generations well beyond their own lifetimes."

A Winterville native, Linwood Rouse served as a U.S. Navy Seabee during WWII. While stationed off Guadalcanal, he'd read books on construction sent by his father, and what he learned from them formed the foundation of his livelihood. Upon returning home from the war and obtaining licensing, Linwood established Rouse Construction Company and went on to build numerous homes, commercial buildings and churches in the Pitt County area.

Vannie Rouse, who grew up in Sanford, was a child of The Great Depression who dropped out of school early to care for her invalid mother and raise her five siblings. Though she lamented her lack of formal education, she never let it dim her desire for knowledge and success and ended up developing an acute appreciation for the value of learning.

After marrying in 1969, the Rouses made Winterville their home and became active in their church and local civic affairs. Linwood, a leader in the Winterville Kiwanis and Ruritan clubs, was a superb cook who used his culinary talents to host large-scale fundraisers. Vannie, who was unable to have children of her own, became a second mother/grandmother to the offspring of her many friends, always stressing to the youngsters the importance of a good education and strong work ethic.

Vannie's love of learning is what led her to establish several perpetual scholarships across North Carolina. As a result, she and Linwood have positively impacted the lives of many Tar Heels – and will continue to do so for many years to come.

University Transfer student Camila Torres is one of this year's Rouse Scholarship recipients. She says she had no expectation of receiving the award, so when she did, the Ayden-Grifton High School graduate couldn't stop telling friends and family about it.

"I had been discouraged by not receiving any scholarships, so this (was) the light at the end of the tunnel," Torres said. "I cannot thank the creator of the Linwood and Vannie Rouse Scholarship enough for this opportunity. This scholarship will help me reach my end goals (while) taking a bit of stress off of me and my family."

Pitt Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award Associate Degrees. Degree-granting institutions also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Pitt Community College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

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