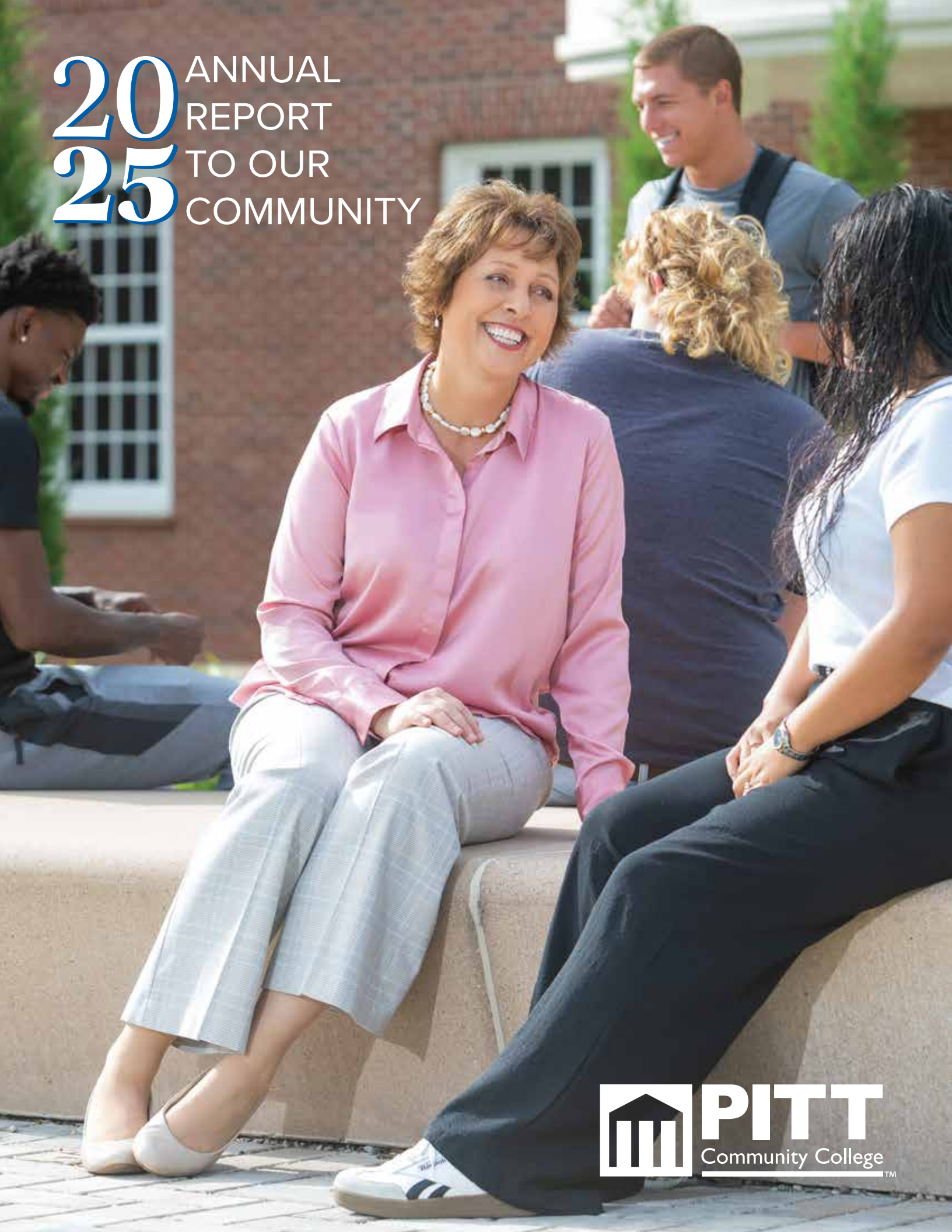
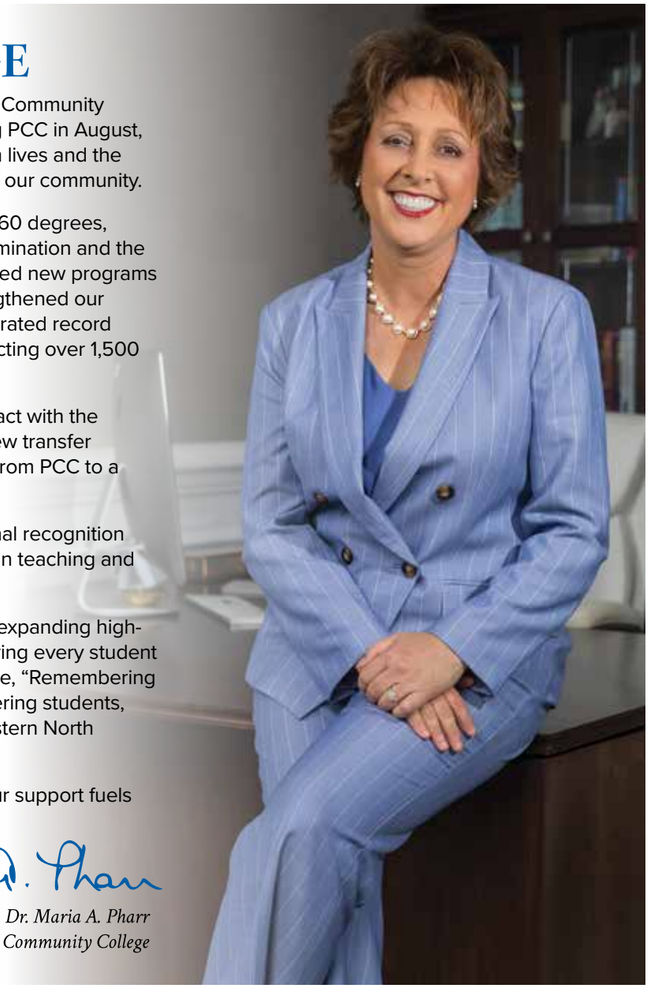
2025 ANNUAL REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY



PITT Community College™

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is with heartfelt pride that I present the 2024–25 Pitt Community College Annual Report to the Community. Since joining PCC in August, I've seen firsthand the power of education to transform lives and the deep commitment this college has to our students and our community.

This year, nearly 1,250 graduates earned more than 1,760 degrees, diplomas, and certificates — a testament to their determination and the support of our outstanding faculty and staff. We launched new programs in biotechnology and early childhood education, strengthened our technical academy with Pitt County Schools, and celebrated record attendance at the Better Skills, Better Jobs Fair, connecting over 1,500 jobseekers with local employers.

We also established critical partnerships, including a pact with the City of Greenville to build affordable housing and 14 new transfer agreements with ECU that create seamless pathways from PCC to a bachelor's degree in Industrial Technology.

Our faculty and staff continued to shine, earning national recognition from the Fulbright Program and advancing excellence in teaching and student support across campus.

As we look to 2025–26, we are focused on growth — expanding high-demand programs, deepening partnerships, and ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed. Our convocation theme, "Remembering Our Why," calls us back to our core mission of empowering students, strengthening families, and building a more vibrant eastern North Carolina.

Thank you for believing in Pitt Community College. Your support fuels our progress and inspires our future.

Dr. Maria A. Pharr
President, Pitt Community College

2024-25 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President's Leadership Team

(Seated, left to right) Executive Vice President Marianne Cox, President Maria Pharr, Vice President of Business and Workforce Solutions Uconda Dunn, and Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs Tanya McGhee. (Standing, l-r) Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services Ricky Brown, Vice President of Research and Technology Brian Miller, Vice President of Student Services Brian Jones, and PCC Police Chief Tyrone Turnage.

Academic Deans

(Left to right) Kamilah Williams (Health Sciences), Katherine Clyde (Business), Keith Kinlaw (Construction and Industrial Technology), Stephanie Rook (Arts and Sciences) and Stephanie Lackey (Public Services and Fine Arts).

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PITT Community College™

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Educating & Empowering People for Success

Fueling Economic Mobility & Regional Prosperity

Shortly after becoming PCC president, Dr. Maria Pharr formed a new Business and Workforce Solutions Division at the college and hired Uconda Dunn, an experienced economic and workforce development professional, to lead it.

Dunn, who worked with Greenville Eastern North Carolina Alliance prior to joining Pitt, brought leadership, innovation and collaboration to a division tasked with streamlining processes and fostering strong connections between local employers, students and faculty.

"A core part of our mission is to serve the needs of our business and industry community, which requires a smooth, coordinated process for communication and program development — one that is fast-paced, nimble, reliable, and, at times, non-traditional," Pharr said. "The establishment of the Business and Workforce Solutions Division represents a strategic shift aimed at improving our responsiveness to the evolving needs of local employers and the workforce."

> ***"We aim to strengthen PCC's position as the most trusted and impactful resource for workforce development in our region.***
>
> ***– PCC President Maria A. Pharr"***

Dunn hit the ground running and traveled to Japan as part of a local business development team that met with senior leadership at Nipro Medical Corporation, a company that is building its first US manufacturing facility in Greenville. Nipro, which makes high-quality renal, medical-surgical and vascular products, has invested approximately $300 million into its Greenville facility, which is expected to create nearly 300 jobs when it opens in 2026.

"It is an honor and privilege to have been invited by Nipro to spend time at their flagship facility," Dunn said. "We have developed a relationship with the company that will prove beneficial to our students for years to come."

Dunn said during the process of recruiting Nipro to Pitt County, representatives from the company visited PCC's campus several times and stated publicly the college's training and facilities played a significant role in their decision to build their plant in Greenville.

"They are very excited about working with us," Dunn said. "They were really impressed by the training assets and lab space we have to offer."

Dunn went to Atlanta her second month at Pitt to lead a presentation on preparing the workforce for foreign direct investment at the Southern Economic Development Council's "Meet the Consultants: American South Site Selection Summit." She discussed the key role PCC plays in recruiting large corporations to the community with economic development professionals from across the South.

"After the exciting projects that our community announced last year, it is important to highlight the role that our community college played in the recruitment of those companies," Dunn said. "Workforce training is in the top three requirements companies look for when deciding on their site location, and with Boviet Solar and Nipro Medical Corporation, Pitt Community College training opportunities received high marks."

PCC SMALL BUSINESS CENTER

Helping Pitt County Small Businesses Thrive in '24-25

	GOAL	ACTUAL
Business Starts	8	37
Jobs Created	15	81
Jobs Supported	15	85
Clients	140	169
Counseling Hours	250	455

PCC Small Business Center client Brad Whiting opened Whiting Electrical Services after completing the new Building Resilient Entrepreneurs in Winterville (BREW) program. The 12-week initiative by PCC, the Town of Winterville, and the Winterville Chamber of Commerce features business fundamentals, one-on-one counseling, and mentorship from local business leaders.

PCC celebrated "National Apprenticeship Day" highlighting the success of local apprenticeship programs and their impact on regional workforce development. The college partnered with more than 25 companies to offer apprenticeships in diverse and high-demand sectors. Seventeen Pitt County Schools students graduated as new apprentices in 2025. At PCC, they'll benefit from a state tuition waiver and continue as active apprentices with their sponsoring companies.

BETTER SKILLS, BETTER JOBS FAIR

The 2024 Better Skills, Better Jobs Fair drew record participation and attendance while successfully fostering engagement between employers and prospective workers and increasing awareness of local career and educational opportunities.

The fair drew 1,500 jobseekers to the Greenville Convention Center, surpassing the 1,130 who attended in 2023 and more than doubling the 600 who came out for the inaugural event in 2021. On hand to speak with attendees were representatives from 132 employers, educational institutions and community resources – eight more than the 124 who participated in 2023.

"When you're talking about more than 130 employers and 1,500 jobseekers, you're talking about lifting up the local economy — and we're so proud to be a part of that," said PCC President Maria Pharr.

The fair's morning session for high school students, saw 484 Pitt County juniors and seniors receive job information and details on how to begin working toward a college degree while still in high school. A total of 1,016 adult jobseekers came out for the afternoon session, many of whom were able to interview with local employers on-site.

Pharr said the fair showed what can happen when essential workforce and economic development organizations work together. In addition to PCC, the fair partnership includes the John M. Belk Endowment, Greenville ENC Alliance, Pitt County Economic Development, Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce and Inner Banks Media.

Student Success

Spring 2025 Graduation

Greenville businessman Ben Dixon presents the 2025 MAC Scholarship to student Niahisha Remy.

New Century Workforce Scholar Alison Beaman

PCC's Level-Up Club was the big winner during the 9th Annual Student Talent and Recognition (STAR) Awards program.

National Letter of Intent Signing Day

SkillsUSA Medalist Ronan Lewis

· PCC holds commencement ceremonies at the end of the fall and spring semesters, honoring nearly 1,250 graduates in total. Collectively, the grads earn more than 1,760 academic credentials during the 2024 summer and fall terms and 2025 spring semester.

· As Student Government Association president, University Transfer major Ja'Niya Cook focuses on increasing student engagement and adhering to student feedback while performing her duties.

· Pitt's 2017 student cohort posts a 51.5% six-year completion rate — highest-ever for PCC since it began using the measure roughly 10 years ago. The rate, which is reported to SACSCOC, represents the percentage of students who started at Pitt in Fall 2017 and completed an educational credential at any institution by Fall 2023.

· The 2025 Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony features 46 students receiving recognition for classroom success and service to campus and the community. The program includes the presentation of the $1,000-President's Scholarship to Naomi Hyde and the $500-President's Award to Jay Vazquez-Soto. Division Awards worth $250 were awarded to Lisa MacPhee (Arts and Sciences), Vazquez-Soto (Business), Christopher Nelson (Construction and Industrial Technology), Medrine T. Achando (Health Sciences) and David G. Brown II (Public Services and Fine Arts).

· PCC announces the following nominees for special awards from the N.C. Community College System: Daniel Dinkins (State Academic Excellence Award), Lindsey Ferguson (Gov. Robert W. Scott Student Leadership Award) and Alex Vanderburg (Dallas Herring Achievement Award).

· During "National Domestic Violence Awareness Month," PCC students draw local attention to the issue by creating t-shirts and putting them on display in front of the Masonry/Welding Building as part of the "Clothesline Project."

· While first-year radiography students collect toys for youngsters in western North Carolina around Christmas, PCC's Circle of Sistas student club organizes a toy drive that benefits local children.

· The Coca-Cola Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society select Alison Beaman as North Carolina's 2025 New Century Workforce Scholar. Beaman, who is double majoring in office administration and office finance, receives a $1,500-scholarship through the honor.

· Pitt's Alpha Alpha Alpha Honor Society chapter welcomes 32 new members – 25 students and seven employees – for excellence in scholarship, leadership and service. The club encourages and rewards academic excellence among first-generation students, who are the first in their families to attend college.

· PCC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapter receives a $1,000-grant through the organization's Honors in Action program to help address real-world challenges through academic research, problem solving and action-oriented service. The group also places fourth among PTK's 81 chapters in the North Carolina, South Carolina and Bermuda Region for the 2024-25 academic year. It also receives nine awards during the PTK Carolinas Regional Convention, including a Five-Star Chapter Award, Distinguished College Project honors, and Distinguished Chapter Honorable Mention.

· PCC joins more than 120 institutions of higher learning throughout the country in hosting a National Coalition of Certification Centers National Letter of Intent Signing Day program to honor high school students for committing to pursuing education and training for technical careers.

· Five PCC Career & College Promise students — Lawson Bennett, Bless Davis, Malcomb Holland, Halee Moore and Tyler Tripp — earn $1,000-Skilled Trades–3M Transformational Scholarships from a national pool of more than 380 applicants.

· During the annual Martin Luther King Jr. tribute, Niahisha Remy receives a $750-scholarship from the college's Multicultural Activities Committee. Remy, a criminal justice student from the U.S. Virgin Islands, says the award brings her closer to her "aspirations of becoming a criminal defense attorney and possibly contributing to society as an investigative reporter."

· Nine graphic design students intern with local businesses during the 2025 Summer Semester, applying classroom skills to real-world projects to gain hands-on professional experience in areas like branding, layout design, large-scale production, and screenprinting.

· Student clubs and organizations are recognized for outstanding service to campus and the community during the 9th Annual Student Talent and Recognition Awards. The big winner is Pitt's Level Up Club, which claims Outstanding Academic and Educational Program of the Year and a Mark of Distinction Award. The Outstanding Social/Entertainment Program of the Year Award goes to AMEXCAN at PCC and Gender-Sexuality Alliance (GSA), after they finish tied in the judges' final scoring. GSA also wins Outstanding Philanthropic Program of the Year.

· By advancing through regional and state competitions, nine students from PCC's Construction & Industrial Technology Division represent North Carolina at the 2025 SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta. From the group, welder Ronan Lewis earns a medal as the third-place finisher in the college welding category.

STUDENT DATA FOR 2024-25

CURRICULUM STUDENTS

10,686 | 53% OF TOTAL* AVERAGE AGE – 23 YEARS

FEMALE	MALE	MINORITY
61%	39%	52%**

EMPLOYED FULL- OR PART-TIME | 40%

CONTINUING EDUCATION STUDENTS

9,371 | 47% OF TOTAL* AVERAGE AGE – 36 YEARS

FEMALE	MALE	MINORITY
44%	55%	47%**

EMPLOYED FULL- OR PART-TIME | 70%

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.

Never Too Early ...

STUDENT APPRENTICES HELP CONSTRUCT WELDING BUILDING

When Pitt Community College's new Welding Technology Building opens in 2026, Levi Camp and Halee Moore can take pride in knowing they contributed to the structure's development as welding students in a transformative apprenticeship program.

During a topping-out ceremony for the facility—which will provide 30,000 square feet of training space for North Carolina's largest welding program—Camp and Moore were among those who signed the final piece of steel in the structure's framework. As apprentices with Greenville-based North State Steel (NSS), the company that supplied the project's steel, the two helped fabricate that very beam.

"It's awesome to be able to say to my fellow students and future students that I had a part in building the place they will spend a majority of their time taking classes at Pitt," Camp said after the April 2 ceremony. "I will graduate from PCC before the building is finished, but I look forward to visiting ...."

Moore agreed, saying she was happy to contribute to a significant investment in the development of future generations of eastern North Carolina's workforce.

PCC Welding Department Chair Keith Kinlaw says Camp and Moore represent the kind of quality training that's possible when schools and industry work together to prepare skilled workers.

"It's the kind of full-circle success story that shows how an aligned partnership between Pitt County Schools and Pitt Community College, with strong support from local industry, can have a transformative impact on both students and the regional workforce," he said.

Camp says he learned a great deal through his welding courses and apprenticeship, including a solid work ethic and the importance of continual learning and expanding one's skillset. Though he says welding "isn't easy" and there's much about the profession to learn, he loved applying the skills he developed in class to his role at NSS and took satisfaction contributing to the overall success of construction projects.

"... It's always rewarding to be able to say you took part in making something that a lot of people will see and walk in one day," he said.

Moore says her favorite part of the apprenticeship is the people she's worked with as she learned how to weld and "build things." She says she's excited about the prospect of being one of the first students to take classes in PCC's future welding building while it's still sparkling new.

For Camp and Moore, the journey to welding and fabricating careers began at D.H. Conley High School, where they took welding courses offered by PCC instructors through the North Carolina Career and College Promise Program (CCP). Through CCP, they earned high school and college credit without having to pay for tuition, fees and books. As standout welding students, Kinlaw says the two were recruited into Pitt County Schools' (PCS) Tradesformers program, which led to opportunities with NSS.

Tradesformers, according to PCS Work-Based Learning Coordinator Tonya Miles, is a vital workforce development program connecting talented Pitt County students with the area's "thriving construction trades businesses." She said after a vetting and orientation process, students selected for participation gain hands-on experience through full-time work the summer before their senior year of high school.

"They continue part-time employment throughout their senior year while completing graduation requirements — all while earning competitive base pay and developing valuable skills and certifications to advance in their chosen field," she said. "After graduation, they continue advancing their skills in PCC's welding program while simultaneously progressing in their apprenticeship with NSS."

Camp, who graduated from D.H. Conley in 2024, completed his second year with North State Steel as an apprentice while pursuing an associate degree from Pitt. Moore, who graduated from Conley this spring, completed her first year with the company as a pre-apprentice and is preparing to begin her second year as a full apprentice while working toward her degree from PCC.

In addition to her apprenticeship, Moore will have the added benefit of a Skilled Trades–3M Transformational Scholarship worth $1,000 to help with her educational expenses. She was one of five Pitt County students selected from a pool of more than 380 applicants to receive the national award created by 3M and the National Coalition of Certification Centers to help colleges like PCC bridge equity gaps within the communities they serve through skilled trades and education.

Never Too Late for Education

FROM SAWMILL TO SCIENCE: VANDERBURG FINDS CALLING

During PCC's 2025 Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony, biotechnology graduate Alex Vanderburg reflected on the moment he decided to enroll at PCC — a decision he now calls "one of the best" he's ever made.

Before graduating with a degree in biotechnology in December, Vanderburg earned an Academic Excellence Award for his 3.9 GPA and was named PCC's nominee for the N.C. Community College System's Dallas Herring Achievement Award.

During the ceremony, the 28-year-old Grifton native shared how PCC helped him find purpose after years of working tough, physically demanding jobs — from long-haul trucking to night security and sawmill operation — without a clear direction.

"... I came from a rough home and had no idea what I wanted to do — other than be out on my own," he said.

The turning point came during an overnight shift at the sawmill. "It was approximately 2 a.m., in the middle of a 12-hour shift at the sawmill. One of the logs ran off the conveyor belts in a bad location," he said. "It took us several hours, but eventually we managed to ratchet and slide the log back on track.

"I was exhausted and sore," he continued. "My coworkers — all older than I was — were even worse off. I got back to my station, and suddenly, another log fell off. I saw right then: this is not the work I want to do for the rest of my life. I knew I needed to go back to school."

Shortly after enrolling at PCC, Vanderburg took a "Success and Study Skills" course with Instructor Donald Joyner. The class became a catalyst for change. Joyner helped him explore his interests and guided him away from a vague idea of studying botany toward a more focused, career-ready path: biotechnology.

Vanderburg discovered a passion for chemistry and found biotech to be "exactly" what he wanted, with knowledgeable instructors and a unique internship opportunity that has led to a promising career in the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry.

That experience came through a partnership between PCC and Catalent, a pharmaceutical manufacturer in Greenville. Vanderburg interned at the company while completing his coursework — and Catalent covered his tuition in exchange for a two-year commitment after graduation.

Today, Vanderburg is thriving as a lab analyst at Catalent, applying the skills he learned at PCC and planning to continue his education at East Carolina University. His journey is a testament to the power of second chances — and PCC's mission to empower people for success.

DINKINS REIGNITES DREAM OF BECOMING AN ENGINEER

Just before completing the first step of becoming an engineer, Daniel Dinkins was surprised to discover that the key to his professional dreams had been at PCC in his hometown of Winterville all along.

Although Dinkins had made many memories at Pitt growing up — including learning to drive in the campus parking lots with his father, Bill, a 30-year PCC employee — he had never realized the opportunities the college could unlock for his future.

"The truth is, I never fully applied myself in high school, and that eventually became one of my biggest regrets," he says. "For years, I drove past college campuses and dreamt about what it must feel like to be a college student, thinking I'd wasted my only chance to make that dream a reality."

Everything changed in the summer of 2023. While watching a documentary on the engineers behind NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, Dinkins felt a burning desire to pursue something greater.

"... I knew right then and there exactly what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," he recalls. "I made up my mind in that moment: I was going back to school, and I would do whatever it took to achieve my goal of becoming an engineer."

At age 34, Dinkins nervously walked into Pitt's Walter & Marie Williams Building and found someone to help him begin the enrollment process. He emerged with two clear goals: gain acceptance into N.C. State University's engineering program and give his absolute best to make the most of his college experience.

With support from his wife and three children, Dinkins thrived at Pitt. He earned a spot on the Dean's List, earned Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society induction, and received both a PCC Academic Excellence Award and the N.C. Community College System's Academic Excellence Award.

"Pitt Community College is a golden ticket for anyone who wants to continue their education or have a second chance to become the best version of themselves," Dinkins says. "I've met so many life-changing professors who've impacted me more than they'll ever know."

This fall, Dinkins transferred to N.C. State's civil engineering program as a member of the prestigious Goodnight Scholars Program. He's one of 60 scholars — representing 26 North Carolina counties — selected for the program's transfer class of 2028.

"Being selected as a Goodnight Scholar is an incredible blessing," Dinkins says. "I'm forever grateful to the Goodnight family and to PCC for making this possible. Getting into N.C. State's engineering program has been my biggest goal since enrolling at Pitt, and the Goodnight Scholarship helped make that goal a reality."

News Highlights

Greenville leaders presented a $20,000-check to PCC in support of a partnership that's been helping city residents in financial need develop skills for jobs in construction trades. Since the 2018-19 academic year, the funding has helped 650 people receive short-term certificate training.

Faculty and staff continued a 20-year tradition when they gathered for Convocation to meet new President Maria Pharr and discuss important topics and plans for the 2024-25 academic year. In her Convocation remarks, Pharr she was both honored and excited to return to Pitt, a place she said had "always felt like home."

PCC students and employees collected donations and delivered them to those affected by Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina and helped raise hurricane relief funding for Isothermal Community College.

- Following Dr. Lawrence Rouse's retirement, PCC Trustees name Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services Ricky Brown interim president.
- PCC's Construction and Industrial Technology Division holds a month-long "Construction Boot Camp" for 14 students ages 16 to 19 years old. They participate in hands-on construction activities and visit worksites with local construction companies through their training, which leads to NCCER, OSHA and CPR/First Aid certifications.
- PCC and Pitt County continue a transportation partnership that's effectively increased access to education. In the pact's first eight months, Pitt Area Transit buses made 1,700 trips to and from campus to drop off and pick up students from throughout Pitt County, except within Greenville city limits.
- PCC Trustees swear in two new members, Thomas Stroud and Kenneth "Neal" Driver, along with returnees Lindsey Griffin and Virginia Hardy.
- Horizons of Pitt County and PCC team up to offer summer active learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom to 40 local K-8 students.
- PCC sponsors a Veterans Appreciation Breakfast and Armed Forces Appreciation Parade in conjunction with the 39th Annual Winterville Watermelon Festival.
- Heavy machinery begins clearing trees, leveling ground and removing debris just beyond the left field fence of Minges-Overton Baseball Complex in preparation for construction of the college's future Welding Technology Building.
- An $8,000-wraparound grant from North Carolina's Finish Line Grants Program supports PCC's on-campus food pantry. During the 2024-25 academic year, the pantry distributed 351 bags of food to students along with 4,727 food items, such as microwaveable meals and breakfast bars.
- The Great 100 Nurses of North Carolina Board of Directors announces its 2024 Great 100 Nurses of North Carolina, and three from ECU Health Medical Center — Rebecca Hagee, Amber Oakes and Deborah Rice — have PCC connections.
- The Center for First-Generation Student Success reaffirms PCC's status as a First Forward Institution for the 2024-25 academic year, thanks to its continued commitment to improving the experiences and outcomes of first-generation college students.
- PCC holds a series of events Sept. 23-27 in association with "Deaf Awareness Week" to foster understanding, promote inclusivity and celebrate the rich culture of the Deaf community.
- Trustees thank former board member Steve Lassiter for his contributions and swear-in Student Government Association President Ja'Niya Cook as an ex officio member.
- Led by AMEXCAN at PCC members, Pitt holds programs to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, including a festival featuring a variety of engaging activities and information for participants to learn about Hispanic culture.
- Pitt hosts an October career information fair to introduce high school students and the community to its health sciences programs and facilities. The event includes simulations to demonstrate how health care professionals work collaboratively to provide quality care.
- PCC partners with local businesses and organizations to celebrate "National Manufacturing Day" with a Forklift Rodeo Safety Competition. The event features workers from local manufacturing companies maneuvering lift trucks around courses to demonstrate their operating skills and knowledge of workplace safety standards.
- In celebration of "National Respiratory Care Week," Respiratory Therapy students host an open house featuring demonstrations and displays that teach attendees about respiratory therapy training and the critical role respiratory therapists play in providing patient care.
- PCC's Entrepreneurship program hosts an Entrepreneurs Roundtable for students and the community that features Parker Ledbetter and Ashton James.
- Farmville Mayor John Moore is the featured speaker during the 27th Annual PCC Veterans Salute honoring current and former members of the nation's military.
- As part of "National First-Generation Week," PCC TRiO Programs organize campus events spotlighting the experiences and achievements of students and employees who are the first in their families to attend college.
- PCC hosts high school welders from throughout the county for the Third Annual Pitt County Schools District Welding Competition. Ayden Grifton High School takes the top prize.
- Grifton School students get a taste of college life when they visit campus for "Bulldog Explorers." In addition to meeting President Pharr, the youngsters interact with Pitt's Bruiser Bulldog mascot and receive special student IDs.
- For the second straight year, Pitt receives funding through the federal State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program to bolster the cyber resilience of its computer infrastructure. The college uses the $164,333 to purchase equipment needed to update its production virtual environment.
- PCC's Minority Male Success Initiative hosts minority high school juniors and seniors from Pitt County during its annual high school kickoff event, "Bridging the Gap: Forging Pathways to Success."
- During Black History Month, New York saxophonist Chris Hemingway joins PCC music students in performing jazz classics for the campus community.

Dr. Jeff Cox, president of the N.C. Community College System, visited campus to speak with local business, government, education and community organization leaders gathered for a regional forum on generative AI and other technological advancements that are increasingly changing the way people work and learn.

PCC Trustees Chairman Charles Ellis earned induction into the North Carolina Bar Association Legal Practice Hall of Fame for his achievements as an attorney and numerous community contributions

For the third straight year, PCC welcomed hundreds of middle and high school students from throughout eastern North Carolina for the SkillsUSA North Carolina East Regional Rally. The event featured more than 80 competitions that tested the students' career and technical skills.

News Highlights (Continued)

• Biotechnology organizes a boot camp featuring information sessions, tours, hands-on activities and biopharma employee testimonials to introduce more than two dozen prospective students and their families to STEM training options and career opportunities available with eastern North Carolina life sciences industries.

• Trustees and administrators welcome Pitt County Commissioners and various county government officials to campus for a discussion on the progress of current and future educational partnerships and projects.

• In conjunction with "Community College Month," an initiative of the Association of Community College Trustees to increase awareness of the benefits of attending community colleges, Pitt County Commissioners approve a proclamation declaring April 2025 "Pitt Community College Month" in Pitt County.

• The PCC-Pitt County Schools Technical Academy recognizes nine students for outstanding achievement during the 2024-25 academic year. Honorees were nominated by instructors and represented all five PCC degree programs—Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration, Architectural Technology, Biotechnology, Electrical Systems and Industrial Systems—affiliated with the academy.

• VIQTORY, an organization dedicated to serving the nation's military community, gives PCC its seal of approval with a spot on its 2025-26 list of "Military Friendly Schools." Pitt was one of more than 1,800 schools to participate in VIQTORY's 2025-26 survey and one of 830 to be deemed 'military-friendly' at either the gold, silver or bronze level.

• During the 2025 NC Space Symposium in Raleigh, five members of PCC's Engineering and Physical Science Club present an academic research poster to describe how they automated a hydrogen-alpha telescope to take solar photos and videos remotely for students in Pitt astronomy classes.

• PCC is officially recognized as an Autodesk Certified Training Center.

More than 20 countries were represented during the PCC English Language Acquisition program's "International Day" program. The annual event gave students a chance to practice speaking English while showcasing their homelands for students, employees and community members.

North Carolina Lt. Governor Rachel Hunt visited Pitt's campus as part of her Future-Ready North Carolina initiative. During her stop, she toured the Education and Child Development preschool lab and several biotechnology labs, where she spoke with students and instructors.

PCC students and employees joined Pitt County representatives and workers from the J.M. Thompson Company for a topping-out ceremony at the site of the college's future Welding Technology Building. The event featured remarks from those responsible for the building's creation before a crane lifted the structure's final steel beam into place.

During their regularly-scheduled June meeting, trustees recognized board members Don Mills, Dr. Patti Sanders-Smith and Gary Evans, whose terms expired at the end of the 2024–25 academic year. The three contributed a combined 43 years of service to the college's governing board.

A PCC contingent attended the grand opening of Boviet Solar, which included remarks from Gov. Josh Stein and company leaders, as well as tours of the Greenville solar cell and module manufacturing facility.

PCC and the City of Greenville have partnered to increase affordable housing opportunities in West Greenville. The collaboration calls for Construction and Industrial Technology students to build three new 1,350-square-foot single-family homes during the 2025-26 academic year. Once they are completed, the houses will be moved from campus to city-owned parcels near West Sixth Street.

• The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care honors PCC's Respiratory Therapy program with a Distinguished Registered Respiratory Therapist Credentialing Success Award. The recognition cites the program's success with inspiring graduates to achieve their highest educational and professional aspirations, strong accreditation standing, 90% RT credentialing success rate, and high retention.

• PCC partners with the Town of Winterville and Winterville Chamber of Commerce on Building Resilient Entrepreneurs in Winterville (BREW), a 12-week course that includes business fundamentals, one-on-one business counseling, and mentorship by local business leaders.

• After a 10-year hiatus, PCC relaunches its continuing education paramedic training program in a flexible hybrid format to accommodate emergency personnel already working in the field. The first EMT-Paramedic class in June welcomes 28 students.

• After local industry expresses significant need for skilled workers who can step in and get residential construction projects up and running right away, PCC announces it is launching a Construction Management Technology program in Fall 2025 to prepare students for leadership roles in the field.

• East Carolina University and PCC cement a transfer partnership with a bilateral agreement that provides select PCC Associate in Applied Science graduates guaranteed admission into ECU's nationally-recognized Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology program.

• Pitt's Entrepreneurship program receives an NCIDEA grant to assist with student engagement events, such as the annual PITTCCH Competition.

• With 450 participants, PCC's 2025 Explore Camps lineup exceeds the prior year's registration numbers.

• The college's Student Services Division creates a 'one-stop' area in the Craig F. Goess Student Center for current and prospective students to ask questions and receive assistance with admissions, financial aid, counseling, advising and career awareness.

Employee Success

Joseph E. Downing Excellence in Teaching Award Presentation: Lara Smith (left) receives the Downing Award from last year's winner, Trish Gaither (center), and PCC President Maria Pharr.

Joan and Ed Warren Outstanding Staff Employee of The Year Award Presentation: Kellie Harrell (left) receives the Warren Award from PCC President Maria Pharr.

Faculty & Staff Excellence Award Recipients

In April, PCC celebrated employee achievements during the 2025 Employee Appreciation and Recognition Banquet at Rock Springs Center.

The program featured college administrators presenting service milestone awards to 76 employees with a combined 1,005 years of service to PCC. Twelve recent retirees were also honored, and the recipients of several special awards were announced.

Four instructors—Tonya Leggett, Jennifer Leigh, Kenneth Pearce and Lara Smith—received Faculty Excellence Awards. From that group, Smith was selected as this year's recipient of the Joseph E. Downing Award for Excellence in Teaching.

A mathematics instructor at Pitt the past 25 years, Smith was noted for her willingness to share technological expertise with coworkers, such as video creation and moving course material online, which were particularly helpful when COVID necessitated distance learning in 2020. Her students added that she goes above and beyond to respond to their questions and provide assistance, even on weekends.

The 2025 Joan and Ed Warren Outstanding Staff Employee of the Year Award was presented to Kellie Harrell, coordinator of Law Enforcement & Detention Officer Training with the college's Basic Law Enforcement Training program.

A Pitt employee the past 11 years, Harrell was cited for her ability to find high-quality instructors to teach at PCC by partnering with local agencies to allow their employees to do so without having to take time away from the workplace.

Harrell was one of five Staff Excellence Award recipients eligible for this year's Warren Award, along with Robert Green, Susan Marsh, Carol Phillips and Olivia Sutton.

76 Employees with 1,005 Years of Service!

FIVE YEARS (25 EMPLOYEES)

Left to right: Christine Humphrey, Caroline Andrews, Brooke Green, Robert Green, Tonya Leggett, Daniel Ortega, Emily McConnell, Steffen McGhee, Gabriela Rivas, Zachariah Oeding and Anita Stroud. Not pictured are Marsha Abernathy, Linda Cruz, Michelle Daniels, Jeffrey Glover, Susan E. Howard, Fulani Jones, Jordan Krutsch, Latrice Perry, Carol Phillips, Janet Pineda, Courtney Spence, Lakisha Williams, Gregory Willis and Wallace Winborne.

10 YEARS (12 EMPLOYEES)

Left to right: Steven Reynolds, Erin Harvey, Katelynn Speas, Anna Jones, Thomas Doumaux, Steven Jordan, Jeremy Morris and Charles Newkirk. Not pictured are Lynda Civils, Tamara Flynn, Kelli Johnston and Richard Joyner.

15 YEARS (17 EMPLOYEES)

Left to right: Alison Ambrose, Anthony Dunn, Sherri Joyner and Tyrone Turnage. Not pictured are Chastity Banfalvy, Timothy Bivans, Brian Bothern, Mary Daniel, Carolyn Dawson, Nicole Franklin, Charity Jules, Glenn Morrison, Joy Moses-Hall, Tonya Reddick, Sandra Richardson, Tereasa Staton and Joseph Strickland.

20 YEARS (12 EMPLOYEES)

Left to right: Jessica Blake, Angela Davis, Mary Higgs and Daniela Long. Not pictured are Rob Goldberg, Andrea Harper, Cara Harrington, Alison Knox, David Manning, Catherine Reynolds, Karen Speight and Teresa Williams.

25 YEARS (7 EMPLOYEES)

Left to right: Don King, Patricia Jackson, Lara Smith, Amy Stephenson and Jeff Ramey. Not pictured are Jason Bratton and Rhonda Jones.

30 YEARS (3 EMPLOYEES)

Left to right: Jennifer Joyner, Wanda Tenpenny and Wendy Wooten.

Employee Success (Continued)

Woman of Substance
RaSheeda Waddell

During the college's annual Women's History Month Celebration in March, RaSheeda Waddell was announced as the 2025 Woman of Substance Award recipient in recognition of campus and community involvement, caring attitude and willingness to go the extra mile. Waddell has served in various capacities during her 14 years with PCC and is currently the college's Moodle technical specialist.

Waddell's nominators cited her efforts to increase knowledge, self-awareness and confidence among students. Also noted was her community service, which included singing at various events and concerts and advocating for equity and belonging as chair for Diversity and Inclusion with the Miss North Carolina Organization.

600 Wins!
Coach Tommy Eason

PCC Baseball Coach Tommy Eason recorded his 600th career victory April 22 in a 16-4 victory over Lenoir Community College. He was honored for reaching the milestone at Minges-Overton Baseball Complex, prior to the Bulldogs' 11-3 victory over the Lancers a week later.

"600 career wins is a tremendous milestone and we are so excited for Coach Eason," PCC Athletics Director Dawn Manning said. "The success he has achieved over his career is a reflection of the leadership and sportsmanship he exemplifies on and off the field each day. We are fortunate that he is a part of our team and that he continues to make a positive impact in the lives of our student-athletes."

The 2025 season was Eason's 20th as head coach of the Bulldogs. In that time, he's recorded a career record of 606-299 and has led PCC to five Region 10 Titles. He's also has led Pitt to two NJCAA World Series appearances – in 2010 (NJCAA DI) and 2017 (NJCAA DII).

NCASFAA President
Lee Bray

In addition to her duties as PCC financial aid director, Lee Bray served as president of the N.C. Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NCASFAA) during the 2024–25 academic year. NCASFAA supports financial aid personnel at North Carolina's public and private two- and four-year colleges and universities.

Bray's goals included increasing NCASFAA participation, strengthening affiliate relationships, and supporting schools through what turned out to be a turbulent year for financial aid staff due to widespread glitches associated with the FAFSA Simplification Act rollout. The federal legislation hindered the financial aid process it was intended to ease, leading Bray to focus on helping fellow professionals navigate hurdles, frustrations and burnout.

"Born With Wings"
Maurey Verzier

What began as a therapeutic outlet for coping with her fight against leukemia turned into a published memoir that PCC instructor Maurey Verzier is hoping encourages others navigating life's hardships.

Verzier, who chairs Pitt's Building Construction Technology Department, published her debut book, "Born with Wings: A Warrior Story," on June 25. In the memoir, which is available for purchase on Amazon, she opens up about her personal battle with leukemia and the deepening of her faith through the experience.

While she credits her experienced nurses for their compassion and understanding, Verzier says it was ultimately her faith that carried her through the darkest moments. "Above all, I relied on God," she says.

After being diagnosed in 2021, Verzier found herself isolated in a hospital room with only a cellphone and a flood of emotions. She turned to blogging as a way to process the fear, pain and transformation that came with her diagnosis and treatment.

"The more I wrote, the more I realized that this could be helpful for anyone going through this for the first time," Verzier says. "To help them understand their cancer journey and know they are not alone."

Through a combination of raw honesty, spiritual reflection and even humor, "Born with Wings" sheds light on a subject that touches millions of lives globally but often remains difficult to discuss. It's dedicated, Verzier says, "to anybody and everyone who has gone through something traumatic in their life and is still trying to figure out how to expand their wings to fly above the trauma."

PTK HONOREE – JOY MOSES-HALL

During the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Carolinas Regional Convention, PCC Science Instructor Joy Moses-Hall (left) is named a Distinguished Chapter Advisor for her work with Pitt's Beta Nu Upsilon PTK chapter.

OUTSTANDING ADVISOR – CHARLES NEWKIRK

During the 9th Annual Student Talent and Recognition Awards, welding instructor Charles Newkirk is named Outstanding Organization Advisor of the Year for his work with Pitt's Arc Visions Welding Club.

Athletics Success

The 2024-25 academic year was a standout for Pitt Community College Athletics, with all four teams posting winning records and student-athletes earning a collective 3.1 GPA in both semesters.

Thirty-eight Bulldogs graduated, and many contributed to the community, volunteering at events like the PCC Foundation's Down East Holiday Show, Pitt County Special Olympics, and Bulldog Buddie visits with Wintergreen Intermediate's Exceptional Children's Program.

PCC Athletics also hosted #BeADawg Summits to help athletes develop beyond sports. Sessions covered personal branding, nutrition, and transitioning from athletics to the workforce, as well as an awards ceremony honoring graduating athletes.

BASEBALL | 34-11 OVERALL | 23-6 CONFERENCE
PCC Baseball reached 15th in the NJCAA national rankings, won the Region 10 East championship, and saw Coach Tommy Eason earn Region 10 Coach of the Year. The team also raised ALS awareness with "Mustache March."

The Bulldogs posted a 3.1 team GPA, with 23 of 24 players earning Academic All-Region honors. John Mason and Cam Greenway led seven players receiving All-Region recognition, and J.D. Scarbrough was named to the conference's All-Defensive Team.

BASKETBALL | 19-12 OVERALL | 11-7 CONFERENCE
Coach Darrick Mullins' squad reached the Region 10 South Atlantic Conference Tournament final before falling to Davidson-Davie Community College. Players supported causes such as a Back-to-School Drive, Family & Friends Day at Koinonia Christian Center, and youth events at Wellcome Middle School.

The Bulldogs averaged a 2.9 GPA, with nine Academic All-Region selections each semester. Sophomore Amarion McCrae earned All-Region Second Team honors, and Traven Norwood received honorable mention.

SOFTBALL | 19-15 OVERALL | 14-11 CONFERENCE
In her third season, Coach Amy Gardner maintained the program's winning tradition and active community presence. Players supported events like the Winterville Watermelon Festival, the Little League Softball World Series, and the annual Abby Foster memorial game, along with causes including Hannah's Heroes and Strike Out Cancer.

The team's GPA improved from 3.19 in fall to 3.37 in spring, with 11 of 15 Bulldogs making Academic All-Region. Freshmen Rachel Humphries and Arianna Hoffman earned All-Region First Team honors; Humphries and sophomore Brooklyn Schwartz made the All-Tournament Team.

VOLLEYBALL | 16-11 OVERALL | 6-5 CONFERENCE
Coach Norman Cabacar's team reached the Region 10 Tournament quarterfinals and contributed to various campus and community events, including the Grifton Christmas Parade.

The Bulldogs averaged a 2.91 GPA, with five of 13 players named Academic All-Region. Freshman Shea Jenkins was an All-Region First Team selection, while classmates Ava Bolechowski and Mallie Blizzard earned honorable mention.

JAN POSPISIL –
SCHOLASTIC MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

PCC baseball standout Jan Pospisil left his mark on the program not just with his bat and glove, but with the discipline and dedication that made him one of the school's most accomplished student-athletes.

In his sophomore season, Pospisil batted .368 in 44 games while earning an associate degree with a perfect 4.0 GPA. His achievements netted him Pitt's 2025 Scholastic Male Athlete of the Year award and a second straight selection to the NJCAA All-Academic First Team.

Though 4,500 miles from his native Czech Republic, Pospisil quickly found a home with the Bulldogs. Off the field, he embraced community service, much as he had in Brno. He helped vendors set up at the PCC Foundation's Down East Holiday Show, assisted with the Pitt County Special Olympics, and donned the Bruiser Bulldog mascot suit to greet kids at a local elementary school.

"It often makes me realize that not everyone is as fortunate as I am," Pospisil said. "I love how much the communities enjoy having us, and it is always a pleasure helping."

With his PCC academic and playing careers complete, Pospisil has transferred to a four-year school to pursue a bachelor's degree in sociology and continue rounding the bases in his baseball career.

MALLIE BLIZZARD –
SCHOLASTIC FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Fueled by exceptional time management and the belief that 'the best view comes after the hardest climb,' Mallie Blizzard made the most of her freshman year as a PCC student-athlete.

A Greenville native, Blizzard was Pitt's 2025 Scholastic Female Athlete of the Year. She excelled in her college transfer courses, recording a 3.6 GPA as she made steady progress toward her goal of earning an exercise physiology degree and attending medical school to become an orthopedic radiologist. As a setter on Pitt's volleyball team, she tallied a team-best 828 assists while helping the Bulldogs post a 16-11 mark.

Blizzard also dedicated a considerable amount of her time helping with community service projects, including Out of the Box for Homelessness, Angel Tree gifts for Christmas, Vacation Bible School and G.R. Whitfield School's fall festival. She also assisted with Greenville's Exceptional Community Baseball League and collected donations for a local Christmas toy drive, Ronald McDonald House, food bank, and western North Carolina residents affected by Hurricane Helene.

"Community service is important to me, because I have always been brought up to treat others how I wish to be treated," Blizzard says. "I have been very fortunate in life, and making others feel good about themselves and making others happy brings me joy."

Message from the PCC Foundation Board

As leaders of the Pitt Community College Foundation, we are filled with pride and gratitude as we reflect on a year marked by growth, generosity, and lasting impact. In a time when access to affordable, high-quality education is more important than ever, the Foundation has remained focused on strengthening partnerships, expanding opportunities, and removing barriers to student success.

This annual report offers more than just data—it tells the stories of perseverance, achievement, and transformation made possible by the unwavering support of our donors, community partners, alumni, faculty, and staff. Together, we've expanded scholarship support, enhanced campus resources, and contributed to innovative learning environments that prepare students for meaningful careers and engaged citizenship.

Every dollar contributed, every hour volunteered, and every story shared affirms the power of community and the value of education in shaping a stronger, more equitable future. We are inspired daily by the resilience and determination of PCC students, and we are honored to play a role in their journey.

Thank you for believing in the mission of Pitt Community College and for helping us build more than just a foundation—we are building futures.

To learn more about how you can make a difference, please visit www.pittccfoundation.com or call (252) 493-7287.

Sincerely,

Beth Sigmon
PCC Foundation Executive Director

Gary Evans
PCC Foundation Board Chair

2024-25 PCC FOUNDATION BOARD

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2023-2024 ALLOCATIONS SUPPORTING THE COLLEGE

SCHOLARSHIPS & MINI GRANTS	$306,904
GENERAL SUPPORT	$37,638
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	$40,000
PROGRAM SERVICES	$388,940
TOTAL	**$773,482**

Foundation Highlights

Lynn Griffin Memorial Scholarship

A little more than a year after former PCC employee Lynn Griffin passed away, her family established a scholarship with the PCC Foundation in her memory.

Griffin, who was the director of the PCC-Pitt County Schools Technical Academy, was 54 years old when she died Nov. 18, 2023, following a courageous battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. She left behind a husband, Chuck; sons, Joseph and Jake Lee; stepchildren, Jacob Griffin and Jordan Sturgill; a pair of grandchildren and her parents, Ronald and Gloria Vaughn.

Starting with the 2025-26 academic year, the Lynn Griffin Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually to a PCC student enrolled in one of the five degree programs affiliated with the technical academy: HVAC, Architectural Technology, Biotechnology, Electrical Systems and Industrial Systems.

Trey Kuhn Memorial Scholarship

In the summer of 2024, the Inner Banks Home Builders Association presented a $41,927-check to the PCC Foundation in support of the Trey Kuhn Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Kuhn was following in the footsteps of his father and pursuing a construction career when he was diagnosed with glioblastoma just a few days before his 21st birthday. He spent his final two years battling the terminal disease, “never wanting to be treated like a cancer patient” while serving “as a vessel to help find a cure for what currently has no known cure.”

PCC awarded the first Trey Kuhn Memorial Scholarships in 2022 to students enrolled in building construction-related programs residing in Pitt, Beaufort, Edgecombe, Greene or Martin counties. Three awards – worth $2,000, $1,000 and $500 – are presented each year through the scholarship.

Employee Fund Drive

The PCC Foundation concluded its 2024-25 Employee Fund Drive in the fall after raising $96,671 for scholarships through contributions from 336 faculty and staff members — new record for participation in the annual fundraiser.

Of the drive’s contributors, nearly one-third were “Fair Share Givers,” meaning they designated at least one percent of their annual salary to the foundation. Thirteen of the 104 “Fair Share Givers” were new.

PCC Foundation Executive Director Beth Sigmon said Pitt’s Financial Aid Director Lee Bray and Health and Physical Education Instructor Jeff Ramey co-chaired this year’s drive. She pointed out that participation in the drive is completely voluntary and employees are never asked to contribute a specific amount.

Alumni Awards

Prior to the start of fall classes, the PCC Alumni Association honored four outstanding graduates for professional success and service to Pitt and the community: Tommy Flynn (Distinguished Alumni Award), Robynique Willis-Brown (Young Alumni Award), Kate Kosolapova (Outstanding Alumni Award) and Paula Loftin (Outstanding Alumni Award).

Left to right: Paula Loftin, Robynique Willis-Brown, Kate Kosolapova, and Tommy Flynn

Flynn, who earned a certificate in Construction & Cabinet Building in 1990, is a construction manager for Greenville homebuilder Bill Clark Homes. As a Pitt student, he was part of the Construction and Industrial Technology Division’s first-ever homebuilding project in 1988.

Willis-Brown, an oncology social work navigator with ECU Health’s Cancer Care Outpatient Clinic, is a former PCC VISIONS student and 2015 graduate. After earning an associate in arts from Pitt, she completed a bachelor’s degree at East Carolina University, as well as a master’s in social work. In the community, she serves as a girls youth mentor at Greenville’s Young Scholars and Leaders Institute and as a peer mentor at Greater Life Community Church.

Kosolapova earned an associate in arts from PCC in 2018. She went on to graduate from ECU with a bachelor of science in communication and worked as Pitt’s media relations specialist before creating video content for Pitt County Schools.

A 2001 PCC accounting graduate, Loftin earned a pair of degrees at ECU after completing her studies at Pitt. She works as county financial operations manager for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and has volunteered extensively with community organizations like Meals on Wheels, the Ayden Rural Fire Association Board, Boys & Girls Club, Ayden Rotary Club and Ayden Chamber of Commerce.

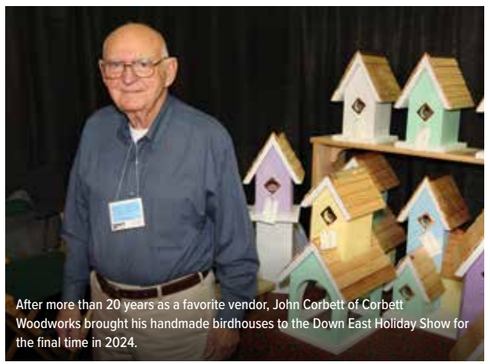
Down East Holiday Show

The PCC Foundation’s 23rd Annual Down East Holiday Show featured more than 185 small business vendors and drew more than 9,600 shoppers over the course of four days to generate nearly $150,000 for scholarships and educational activities.

Almost 1,400 shoppers came out for the event’s special shopping night, and another 2,599 tickets were sold the following day. Saturday’s show date had the highest single-day attendance total, with 3,497 shoppers.

The 2024 show’s fundraising total was $2,100 more than what was raised the year prior, meaning the Down East Holiday Show has now generated almost $2 million for the PCC Foundation since it was first held in 2002.

The 2025 Down East Holiday Show is scheduled to take place at the Greenville Convention Center Nov. 6-9.



After more than 20 years as a favorite vendor, John Corbett of Corbett Woodworks brought his handmade birdhouses to the Down East Holiday Show for the final time in 2024.

Student Ambassadors Represent PCC with Pride and Purpose

Pitt Community College Student Ambassadors hit the ground running last fall, adding another chapter to the legacy of a program known for professionalism and service to both PCC and the community.

From welcoming guests to campus and assisting with special college and PCC Foundation events to engaging with community leaders and raising funds for charitable causes, the ambassadors built confidence, developed leadership skills, and forged friendships that will support them long after graduation.

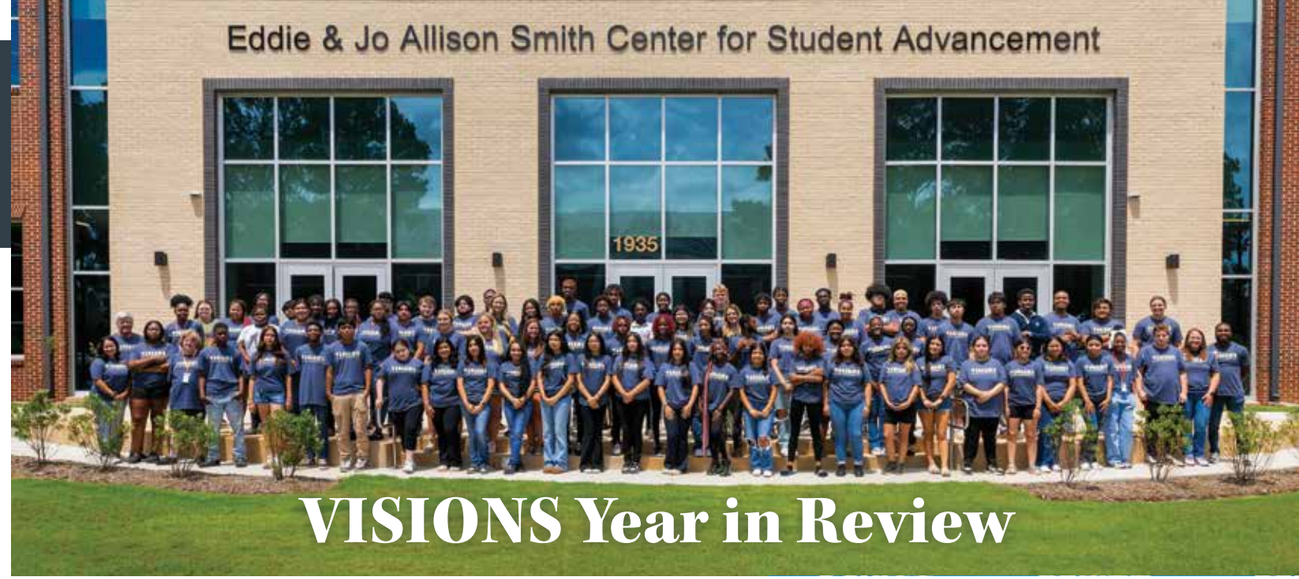
The nine-member team included six returning ambassadors — Amy Arriaga, Alison Beaman, Kaitlyn Dunn, Penelope Rouse, Alexis Satchell, and Alex Williford — and three newcomers: Kayla Clifton, Kenya Lopez, and Tyler Ward. They represented a variety of academic interests and seven different eastern North Carolina counties: Beaufort, Dare, Edgecombe, Johnston, Lenoir, Pitt, and Washington.

After a kickoff luncheon in August to meet PCC administrators and gain a better understanding of their responsibilities for the year ahead, ambassadors participated in leadership training that included public speaking practice, PCC history, a True Colors personality assessment, and campus tour preparation. Throughout the academic year, the students contributed weekly service hours on campus and assisted with events like Family STEM Night and PCC Open House. They also supported large-scale events such as the Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony, the Better Skills, Better Jobs Fair, and legislative visits.

The fall semester closed with a whirlwind of activity. Ambassadors played a key role in the PCC Foundation's "Home for the Holidays Concert" in December and Down East Holiday Show — the charitable organization's largest annual fundraiser — the month before. Held at the Greenville Convention Center, the four-day event drew thousands of attendees. In addition to helping vendors move in prior to the show, ambassadors greeted guests, assisted with logistics, and even provided golf cart shuttle service for shoppers. They also raised approximately $1,500 for the Ambassador Alumni Leadership Scholarship by selling drinks, snacks, and raffle tickets for gift basket giveaways.

April was another busy month for the group. The students took part in Spring Fling, PCC's Open House, and the college's employee appreciation banquet. The year concluded with a celebration dinner honoring five ambassadors who graduated in May. The four ambassadors not graduating then helped close out the academic year by serving as marshals during spring commencement.

Established in 1992, PCC's highly competitive ambassador program is designed to develop students' social, organizational, and leadership skills. Applicants undergo a rigorous selection process, and those selected receive foundation scholarships that cover in-state tuition, fees, and professional attire. In return, ambassadors must maintain a minimum 3.2 GPA and full-time enrollment while serving the college with professionalism and enthusiasm throughout the academic year.



VISIONS Year in Review

VISIONS College

- 159 VISIONS students were enrolled at PCC during the 2024–25 academic year.
- 58 first-year students completed summer college prep sessions to help ease their transition to college life.
- First-year students attended weekly one-hour study halls at the VISIONS Center to stay on track academically and connect with advisors. Students from the 2024 cohort saw their cumulative GPAs increase by half a point through consistent participation.
- All students took part in advising sessions throughout the year, covering topics like campus resources, student engagement, and career readiness. Individual sessions focused on academic progress and long-term career planning.
- Students participated in "Learning Bites," brief morning workshops that helped them strengthen employability skills such as communication, problem-solving, and social media professionalism.
- 26 VISIONS students graduated from PCC at the end of the fall and spring semesters.

VISIONS High School

- 87 seniors participated in the VISIONS High School Program in 2024–25.
- In August, VISIONS seniors met with their advisors to set goals for their senior year and select intended majors at PCC.
- Throughout the year, students participated in four seminars covering key topics:
  October: PCC application process, residency determination, and academic planning.
  November: Decision-making, personal responsibility, and ownership of their futures, including a Q&A with VISIONS College staff about the transition to college.
  February: Transition to College seminar for students and parents, focusing on financial literacy, financial aid, and college expectations.
  April: Attendance at Pitt Community College New Student Orientation.
- The program culminated in a Graduation Celebration dinner at the Greenville Hilton, honoring students' achievements and presenting VISIONS pins to wear on their graduation stoles.
- 83 juniors were accepted into the VISIONS High School Program in 2024-25.
- During March and April, students participated in seminars focused on the Holland Code to help identify career interests and strengths. These sessions also included team building, character development, and personal enrichment activities.
- Juniors took part in the VISIONS Summer Institute, which offered hands-on exploration of PCC programs. They also toured local businesses, including Grady-White Boats, ECU Health, Painted Peacock, and Radiate Prints to gain insight into various industries. Additional experiences during the institute included attending a college class, engaging in team challenges, and completing character assessments.

PCC Foundation Donors

The PCC Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following donors for the July 2024 – June 2025 fiscal year.

Gold Circle $100,000 - $499,999

Eddie & Jo Allison Smith Family Foundation

Cornerstone Circle $50,000 - $99,999

American Legion Post 151
Immanuel Baptist Church of Greenville
T.A. Loving Foundation

Circle of Excellence $25,000 - $49,999

Inner Banks Home Builders Association
Pecheles Automotive Group

Bulldog Circle $10,000 - $24,999

Anonymous
Jim & Louise Clement
Eastern Carolina Vocational Center
Gary & Wendy Evans
William & Margaret Faulkenberry
Mary Raab McConnell
Pitt County Law Enforcement Officers Association
Robert P. Holding Foundation
Steele Insurance

Foundation Leaders $5,000 - $9,999

William Duffy
Nickie Foster
Carolyn Hearon-Williams
JT Williams Building Group
Will & Cindy Kuhn
John, Lynn and Luisa Lee Family Foundation
Minges Bottling Group
Marie Peele
Piedmont Natural Gas
Aaron Wilson

President's Council $2,500 - $4,999

Amgen Foundation
Anonymous
Sandra Curry
John Farkas
Foss Recycling
Fuji Silysia Chemical
Charles Goodman
Anne Jenkins
Mitch & Mandi Jones
Keystone Property Management
Dennis Massey
John & Sarah Minges
Darrick & Glynis Mullins
PCC Occupational Therapy Association
Maria Pharr
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
Herman Simon
The Roberts Company

Pitt Society $1,000 - $2,499

Charles C. Bremer
Ricky Brown
James Bryant
BW Architecture
Campus Pointe
Mark Caudill
Centrifugal Solutions
Katherine Clyde
Marianne Cox
Sylvia Craft
Jimmy & Debbie Creech
Uconda Dunn
Charles & Laura Ellis
First National Bank
Catherine Franklin
Steve & Susan Jarrell
Brian Jones
Terra Jones
Kiwanis Club of Golden K Greenville
Betty Langston
Jeffrey Lee
Brian Miller
Bob & Sue Ellen Monk
Carlos Moore
Jim & Barbara Moye
Diane Murphrey
National Roofing Contractors Association
Susan Nobles
PA Greenville
Patrick Jacques
PCAC At Emerge
Phelps Chevrolet
Pitt County Economic Development Commission
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Beth Sigmon
Jasmin Spain
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Thermo Fisher Scientific
Madge Gay Thompson
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TowneBank
Faith Underwood
Welcome Federal Credit Union
Youngs Physical Therapy & Sports Rehab

College Fellows $500 - $999

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Pamela Baldwin
Christine Bates
Kristina Baum
Linda Boyd
Vera Braswell
Lee Bray
Latis Burnett
John Carrere
Charities Aid Foundation America
Scott & Samantha Chauncey
Chick-fil-A - University Commons
Brad Clayton
Doug Collins
Patrick Corbett
Jackson Cox
Michelle Daniels
Karen Davis
Cicoira Drummond
William Everett
Ronald Fair
Ginger Ferrell
Rebecca Foster
Luis Clemente Galeana
Anthony Garner
Garris Evans Lumber
Jeff Glover
Rob Goldberg
Greenville-Pitt County Area Section of The National Council of Negro Women
Chuck Griffin
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Susan Howard
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Anna Jones
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Sherri Joyner
Kinetic Physical Therapy & Wellness
Travis Kinsey
Charlie Langley
Tywana Lawson
Susan Marsh
Dennis Marshall
Steffen McGhee
McGlohon & Company Insurance
Garrie Moore
New York Life Insurance
Sheila Ormond
Juan Paz-Jimenez
Jane Power
Theresa Rawls
Tonya Reddick
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Jared Taunton
Emerson Thompson
Shannon Tillett
Tripp Bro's
Prentice Tyndall
Cassandra Tyson
Stephen Venters
Rebecca Warren
Lisa Webb
Dorothy Whitlock
Rachel Whitten
Cassius Williams
Kimberly Williamson
Laurie Wooten
Natasha Worthington
Anthony Zboyovsky

Honor Council $250 - $499

Advanced Termite Home Inspections
Jane Alligood
Arch Capital Group
Ashlyn Bennett
Devon Berry
Carl Blackwood
Crystal Boseman
Queen Boyd
Tavondia Burdett
Taylor Cancellarich
Charter House Property Manangement
Bob Clinkscales
Vicki Coleman
Dorothy Davis
Keith Drury
Manuel Dudley
Edward Stone Inc
Kenneth Edwards
Rodrick Ford
Alvin Frazier
Regina Garcia
Kim Hallow
Leigh Hannah
Hannah's Heroes of NC
Clay Harrell
Paul & Susan Harris
Lenora Harvey
William Hofler
Christine Humphrey
Jefferson Group
Dean Johnson
Mitchell Jones, Jr.
Linda King
Deborah Lambert
Beth Lane
Jennifer Leigh
Glen Mabry
Stephanie Manley-Rook
Dawn Manning
Alexandra McCoy
Lauren McGee
Valerie Mendez
Angela Moore
Susan Moore
Melissa Morlock
Paypal Giving Fund
Brandon Peebles
Julius Perkins
Carol Phillips
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Nedra Sprague
Kiara Stanley
Arthur Stevenson
Wanda Tenpenny
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Amanda Wells
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Stephanie Woodley
Alison Ambrose
Lillie Andrews
Ashemont Title
Wayne Baker
Holly Barbee
Beechler Properties
Wesley Bishop
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Mott & Jennifer Blair
Brian Bothern
Tina Bothern
Jane Darden Brown
Tammy Buck
Patti Burke
Bobby Carraway
Kimberly Claggett
Thomas Clark
Catina Clinefelter
Larry & Amy Collins
Kendall Commodore
Mary Cooper
Laura Corbett
Nicole Coutouzis
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Kristi Dale
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Tammy Downum
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Heather Fisher
Tamara Flynn
Thomas Forrest
James Frazier
Kathy Frazier
Louis & Sandra Gallops
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Pam Garris
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Kimberly Grant
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Kirk Grice
Belinda Grubbs
Judy Hagan
Amy Harris
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Katherine Hathaway
Karla Hester
Ashley Hewitt
Phil Hodges
Tate Holbrook
Abbott Hunsucker
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Lisa Kelley
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Wayne Meads
April Moore
Kenneth Moses
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Angie Peaden
Julie Peaden
Dondra Perkins
Andy Pilgreen
Stephen Premo
Pyxus International
Andrea Sawyer
Jim Shallow
Dustin Sharp
Ashley Dews Smith
Johnny Smith
Lara Smith
Stanley Smith
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Tia Stocks
Krystal Sugg
Rusty Sugg
Marcus & Brooke Sumner
Olivia Sutton
Jordan Taunton
Nellie Taylor
West Taylor
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Cathy Thompson
Stephanie Tripp
Tyrone Turnage
Tiffany Vega
Tetyana Vilkomir
RaSheeda Waddell
Alton Wadford
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Pat Watkins
Elizabeth Weeks
Craig & Jill Weinberg
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Christopher Young

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Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Matthew Amante

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PCC Foundation Scholarships & Endowments

Abby Foster Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Action Auto Endowed Scholarship
Addie Gore Endowed Scholarship
Adrian Jordan Walls Memorial Scholarship
Alliance One, Inc. Endowed Scholarship
Alltel Endowed Scholarship
American Legion Post 151 Family of Veterans Endowed Scholarship
American Legion Post 151 Veterans Memorial Fund Endowed Scholarship
American Legion Post 39 of Greenville Endowed Scholarship
Anthony "Tony" Bowen Memorial Scholarship
Arno-Cannon Medical Imaging Scholarship
Barnes Trust Scholarship Grant
Bill and Jane Brown Endowed Scholarship
Brandt Thomas Allen Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Brent A. Holmes Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Bruiser's Crew Scholarship
Buddy and Polly Holt Automotive Endowed Scholarship
Caitlin Faulkenberry Endowed Scholarship
Caleb Beatty Memorial Scholarship
Caroline Killmon Nursing Excellence Scholarship
Charles Coburn Endowed Scholarship
Cherry Oaks Recreation Club Endowed Scholarship
Community Crossroads Scholarship
Craig F. Goess Endowed Scholarship
Dale Leary Endowed Scholarship
Dalton "Skip" Bright Endowed Scholarship
Daniel L. Taylor, Jr. Endowed Scholarship
Danny Williams HVAC Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Danny Woods Memorial Endowed Scholarship
David Vaughn Scholarship
Debi Pearson Scholarship
Diane Murphrey "Make It Happen" Endowed Scholarship
Donald C. Rhodes & Sara Beth Fulford Rhodes Teacher Preparation Program Endowed Scholarship
Donna V. Neal Respiratory Therapy Endowed Scholarship
Dorothy P. Jenkins Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Dr. Austin & Dr. Wanda Bunch Memorial Scholarship
Dr. Charles E. and Lorraine Russell Endowed Scholarship
Dr. Edgar Boyd Endowed Scholarship
Dr. G. Dennis Massey Endowed Scholarship
Dr. Jean H. Daeschner and Dr. Charles W. Daeschner Endowed Scholarship
Dr. Judith Kuykendall Endowed Scholarship
Dr. Robert Shaw Respiratory Therapy Scholarship
Dr. William E. Fulford, Jr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Drs. Lawrence and Janie Rouse Endowed Scholarship
ECVC Endowed Scholarship
Edith Smith Edwards Endowed Scholarship
Eleanor Beth Fulford Endowed Scholarship
Faculty Senate Endowed Scholarship
Faye B. Gurganus Endowed Scholarship
Fine Arts Scholarship
First Citizens Bank Scholarship
First Gen Fellows Scholarship
Floyd & Hilda Boyce Nursing Endowed Scholarship
Floyd Family Endowed Scholarship
Garrie Moore Outreach Endowed Scholarship
Gary and Wendy Evans Endowed Scholarship
Gene Hemby Endowed Scholarship
Grady White Boats Endowed Scholarship
Greenville New Car Dealers Endowed Scholarship
Hardy's Appliance and Furniture Endowed Scholarship
Herman Simon Endowed Accounting Scholarship
Hildria Franco Smithwick Memorial Scholarship
Home Health and Hospice Care Endowed Scholarship
Hunter Lancaster Memorial Automotive Systems Technology Endowed Scholarship
Immanuel Baptist Church Endowed Nursing Scholarship
International Education Scholarship
J. Paul Davenport Memorial Endowed Scholarship
J. S. Flake Memorial Endowed Scholarship
James Brooks Scholarship
James E. Langston Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Jane Keller Travel Abroad Endowed Scholarship
Jenkins Building Construction Technology Program Scholarship
Jennifer King Congleton & Margarette Randolph King Endowed Scholarship
Jennifer Knight Endowed Memorial Scholarship
Jim and Barbara Moye Endowed Scholarship
Joan Warren Memorial Endowed Scholarship
John and Nancy Bray Endowed Scholarship
John F. Minges Criminal Justice Scholarship
John Payne – Pitt County Electrical Contractors Endowed Scholarship
Joseph Downing Scholarship
Joyce Ann and Bobby Dunn Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Karen Lee Memorial Scholarship
Karen Perry Endowed Scholarship
Kemp Bradshaw Memorial Scholarship
Kenneth R. and Phyllis P. Ross Endowed Scholarship
Kenneth Thompson Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement Endowed Scholarship
Kevin M. Grant Memorial Scholarship
Leslie D. Rogers Scholarship
Level Up Scholarship
Lida & Owen Allsbrook Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Linwood and Vannie Rouse Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Lloyd Huggins Memorial Scholarship
Lynn Griffin Memorial Scholarship
Mamie McLawhorn & Kenneth Kirwin Dews, Sr. Endowed Scholarship
Mattie Baker Textbook Scholarship
Mechanical Engineering and Industrial Systems Technology Scholarship
Medical Sonography Scholarship
Michael Aman, Jr. Endowed Scholarship
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Ms. Harvey S. Wooten Fine Arts Endowed Scholarship
Multicultural Activities Committee (MAC) Scholarship
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National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC) Scholarship
Nursing Alumni Assistance Fund
Pat Chenier Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Paula R. Davis Memorial Endowed Scholarship
PCC Alumni Scholarship
PCC Ambassadors Alumni Leadership Scholarship
PCC Employees' Dependents Scholarship
PCC Foundation Choral Scholarship
PCC Foundation General Scholarship
PCC Institutional General Scholarship
PCC President's Scholarship
PCC Retirees Scholarship
PCC Student Ambassador Program Scholarship
PCC Welding Scholarship
PCCAEOP Scholarship
Peace Church Scholarship
Petty's Garage Scholarship
Phillip Clark Scholarship
Pitt County American Legion Fair Endowed Scholarship
Professional Construction Estimators Association Endowed Scholarship
R. Dudley Miller Memorial Endowed Scholarship
R. O. Everett Family Endowed Scholarship
R. William McConnell, MD Endowed Radiography Scholarship
RIBN Scholarship
Ricks Automotive Scholarship
Roselyn Armstrong OTA Endowed Scholarship
Roxanne Nelson Memorial Scholarship
Ryan Collier Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Sanders Hearon Endowed Scholarship
Sandra Harrison Scholarship
Sandra Roberts Ott Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Service Roofing Endowed Scholarship
Sherry Aubry Harrell Memorial BLET Scholarship
Star 6 Sigma Leadership Veterans Scholarship
State Employees' Credit Union Scholarship
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Steve and Susan Jarrell Endowed Scholarship
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Suellen G. Monk Endowed Scholarship
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Sylvia Jones Taylor Nursing Endowed Scholarship
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T.W. Nicholson, MD Educational Scholarship
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Trey Kuhn Memorial Endowed Scholarship
TRiO Scholarship
Turner Shafer Memorial Endowed Scholarship
U.N.X./NCAT Scholarship
University Health Systems Endowed Scholarship
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Vernon E. White Endowed Scholarship
Vernon G. Snyder III Memorial Scholarship
VISIONS Scholarship
W. E. Daniels Scholarship
W. H. Howell Scholarship
Walter Williams Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Walton Family & Children's World Learning Center Scholarship
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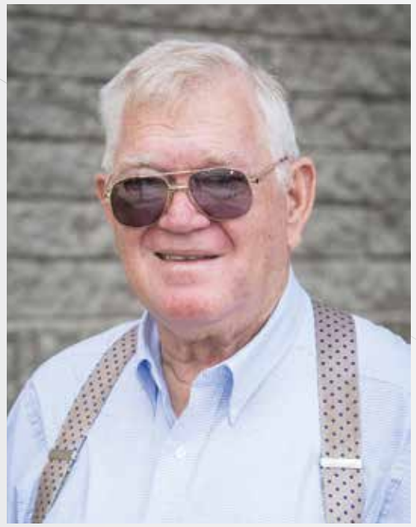
William "Bill" Russell Spencer Oncology Scholarship
William Hoke Smith Endowed Scholarship
William P. "Bill" Rice Endowed Scholarship
William Rabon Wilkins Memorial Endowed Scholarship
William Rawlinson Endowed Scholarship
WIMCO Charitable Foundation Scholarship
Winterville High School Class of 1943 Endowed Scholarship
Zachery Russian Memorial Scholarship

Honoring Kenneth Ross: A Life Dedicated to Community, Education, and Service



Pitt Community College lost a dear friend and steadfast supporter on Dec. 9 with the passing of Kenneth Ross, a lifelong Pitt County resident who devoted nearly 60 years of his life to public service.

Known for his deep commitment to community and education, Ross played a pivotal role in advancing student success at PCC through his involvement with the PCC Foundation. He joined the Foundation's Board of Directors in 2001 and served for 23 years, including several as chairman. He and his wife, Phyllis—a retired special education teacher—were fixtures at the Foundation's fundraisers and special events.

"Ken Ross was always an advocate for the PCC Foundation and everything you could ever want in a board member," said PCC Foundation Executive Director Beth Sigmon. "He was always looking for ways to support us—be it physically doing something, contributing financially, or serving as an ambassador for the college."

A U.S. Navy veteran, Ross participated in many PCC Veterans Salute ceremonies and was a longtime member and former post commander of Pitt County American Legion Post 39. He also managed the Pitt County American Legion Agricultural Fair from 2003 until his retirement from that role in 2024. As former president of the N.C. Association of Agricultural Fairs, he received the organization's Holmes-McBride Award in 2017 for distinguished achievement in—or contributions to—the fair industry.

Through his work with Post 39, Ross ensured continued support for the American Legion Post 39 of Greenville Endowed Scholarship for PCC nursing students. He also helped initiate and grow the Pitt County American Legion Fair Endowed Scholarship for vocational and technical students in 2014.

Two years earlier, he and his wife established the Kenneth R. and Phyllis P. Ross Endowed Scholarship through an initial contribution of $25,000. The award was designed to assist students attending PCC, with preference given to Pitt County residents demonstrating financial need.

Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Phyllis Ross

"Mr. Ross was extremely generous to the Foundation—whether it was auctioning homemade cakes during the Pitt County Fair to raise money for scholarships, ensuring PCC had a recruiting table at each fair, or helping organize a food truck event on the Pitt County Fairgrounds to raise funds," Sigmon said. "His only expectation from us was to make sure the scholarships he supported were awarded to students each year, so he could show the organizations that created them the impact their generosity was having on higher education locally."

In addition to his contributions to education and veterans' causes, Ross dedicated much of his life to public service in local and state government. He served 26 years with the N.C. State Highway Patrol, retiring in 1990 as a sergeant. He was later elected to the Pitt County Board of Commissioners and spent time as board chairman. His leadership extended to the Pitt County Planning Board and Pitt County Economic Development Board, and he also served as manager of the Pitt County Shrine Club.

"Ken Ross had a passion for Pitt County and Pitt Community College—he really did," Sigmon said. "Beneath that stern State Trooper exterior, he had a big heart. He loved Phyllis, his children and grandchildren, and I miss him."

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

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