The pace of activity at the end of April caught up with me and prevented an earlier appearance for the May Update, but I am pleased to report that the diversions were all for good causes supporting Pitt Community College and I will strive to hold to my first of the month schedule in the future, though July appears to be another challenge with an upcoming visit to Wuxi Institute of Technology on my calendar.

There are so many events and celebrations in April and May that I am unable to mark them all, but a quick review of the recent past includes

- **Employee Appreciation Night**, April 15, where over 400 faculty, staff, trustees, retirees, and friends honored our outstanding faculty and staff nominees as well as those receiving service awards. Many thanks to outgoing Director of Human Resources Debra McGowan and the Service Awards Committee for their excellent planning.

- **NC Community College Excellence Event**, “The Great Within the 58,” April 14 in Raleigh, at which SGA President Jason Donica was honored.

- **The Small Business Awards Breakfast**, May 3, once again hosted by Jim Ensor and the Small Business Center as well as the Pitt-Greenville Chamber of Commerce.

- **Winterville Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Night**, April 19, where PCC was recognized as “Business of the Year” for 50 years of service and excellence. Many thanks to Board Chair Alton Wadford and VP Susan Nobles.

But these events are just a prelude to the commencement ceremonies on May 13 and for GED/Adult High School on May 19, not to mention the pinning ceremonies and other celebrations to come this joyous month. More on these in the June Update.

From April 25-29 I chaired a Southern Association review team for a college in Kentucky, an example of the colleague service which others on campus including Vice Presidents Donald Spell and Pamela Hilbert and Assistant to the President Brian Miller have participated in over the past year. This is just a part of our campus preparation for our own PCC accreditation review in 2012, since, as faculty know well, one learns best by direct participation as a teacher or evaluator. The many employee teams already working hard to prepare for the major parts of our review (Compliance Certification, Quality Enhancement Plan, Site Visit) deserve the thanks of us all. The Communications Committee chaired by Kelly Jones in Arts & Sciences is doing a fine job of getting the word out on various initiatives – check out the information on the PCC Web Page, either by hitting the SACS logo under Quick Links on the Home Page or under Experience PCC-About Us-Accreditation. There will be much more information to come, and many opportunities for your active participation.
The NC State Budget moves on, though it is still far from conclusion for the Biennial 2011-2013. At this point, the NC Community Colleges have been assigned a 13.3% reduction, but an overall net loss of 10.1%. The positive news is that full enrollment growth funding is included, technology and equipment is included in enrollment growth, and there are no immediate changes to high school student programs. However, there is no salary increases funded. Our primary approach with the Senate and the Governor is to minimize cuts and try to retrieve more funding for instructional support positions. I will keep you posted on developments and urge you to communicate with our state representatives. At this point we are unsure of funding from Pitt County, which makes up about 10% of our total budget, but our budget presentation is scheduled for May 18, so communications to county commissioners would also be appreciated.

Join me in thanking and recognizing the following individuals and departments for the recognitions or accomplishments they have recorded, and please let me know if there are others who I can praise in a future Update:

- **The 100th graduating Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) class.** Eighteen men and women graduated from the night class cohort with a 100% pass rate on the BLET Certification exam.
- **Morgan Kern,** PCC’s first All-USA Academic Team Gold Award Winner, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
- **Tammy Atchison,** Science Instructor, for her work with Eagle Scout candidate Ian Barwick, on the continuing development of the College’s Nature Trail. The trail is located along the College’s perimeter that runs along Reedy Branch Creek.
- **Cynthia Jernigan,** Staff Accountant, completed the North Carolina Community College Leadership Program.
- **Lisa Elmore,** Institutional Advancement, for leadership of the NC Association of Educational Office Professionals, Inc.
- **Ashley Sierant,** Coordinator, Occupational Extension Programs, and **Amy Fraser,** Career Services Coordinator, completed the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Institute.
- **Jay Shingleton,** PCC Police, was promoted to Captain and **Tim Barfield,** PCC Police, was promoted to Sergeant.
- **Susan Everett,** VP for Administration, completed “Preventing Sexual Harassment” credential (supervisory) and training.
- **Larry Spell,** Music Instructor and Conductor of the PCC Orchestra, for an outstanding spring concert on May 4. Please try to attend one of these concerts in the coming academic year, as they are truly a delight and one of our greatest examples of collaboration with the community.

Thanks for your support of our students during this important month, and please wish our baseball and softball teams best wishes as they prepare for their regional tournaments. I will have more good news to report next month.

G. Dennis Massey, President