College Update

This is the season for celebrations in higher education, and after the graduations we hosted in May, first at ECU’s Minges Coliseum for our curriculum students and the following week at the Greenville Convention Center for GED/Adult High School students, there were smiles all around from family and friends, elected officials, and, of course, the graduates themselves. These are success stories of Pitt Community College, and I want to be sure to thank all of you for what you contributed to make these successes possible. Certainly we will continue to be a resource and a launching pad for students with a wide range of goals, but those who complete our degree, certificate and diploma programs have shown their persistence and invested in a full course of study, and we are especially proud of their accomplishments. It is heartening that at a time when our enrollment continues to grow at an annual rate of 10%, the number of completers is increasing by 11-12%.

In the weeks ahead we will be marking another milestone – no, not 50 years as an institution of higher learning, but the concluding of four years of Pitt’s Strategic Plan 2007-2011. This plan has had a major impact on the College and the people we serve, from the emphasis on active learning and student completions and continuing education services to passage of the ¼ cent sales tax, PCC’s first capital campaign, and the construction of the Goess Student Center, the Herman Simon Building, and three great new buildings which will open in 2011-2012. This effort would not have been possible without the creativity and hard work of many people. A final 2007-2011 Strategic Plan report will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

Meanwhile, we are working hard to finalize a new Strategic Plan for 2011-2014. The team which is developing the goals and key objectives is chaired by Dr. Brian Miller and includes VP Donald Spell, Tommianne Haithcock (Health Sciences), William White (Arts&Sciences), Kathy Worthington (Business), Bill Hofler (CIT), Janet Mintern (Administrative Services), and Ashley Dews-Smith (Institutional Advancement). We have already tested out ideas with several key groups, and we will be bringing a finished Strategic Plan to you at Fall Convocation on August 15. There is clearly much still to do at Pitt Community College, but I am confident that even in this era of economic challenge and constrained resources, we will continue to develop and improve as a college committed to our new goals of student and community access, student success, and program excellence.

We have gotten off to a solid start in Summer Session, currently 5% over last summer’s record enrollment. The primary efforts, however, are pointed toward the preparations for fall term. Expanded and more student-focused New Student Orientation sessions
will begin soon. Financial aid applications are up over 10% over last year at this time, and several faculty searches are underway. At this point in the state budget formulation, community college cuts are significant (almost 11%). We will plan cautiously for fall and keep you informed of implications for numbers of sections offered and budget decisions as they develop.

The Board of Trustees at their May 25 meeting approved the appointment of Dr. Dan Mayo as Dean of Public Service and Fine Arts. Dan’s service as Director of Tutoring Services and Assistant VP for Academic Affairs will prepare him well for this key leadership assignment.

Join me in congratulating our two spring sports teams for their outstanding performances representing PCC in postseason play. The Women's Softball team, coached by William Bailey, went to the NJCAA Division I Championship Tournament for the second straight year, giving eventual champion and #1 ranked Yavapai College (AZ) their closest game of the tournament before losing 3-1. And the PCC Bulldogs Baseball team coached by Tommy Eason barely lost to Potomac State (WV) in district play after winning their second straight Region X championship. These teams played hard and demonstrated great sportsmanship.

**Accomplishments and Recognitions:**

LaTonya Evans, TRIO Director, submitted a grant proposal to become an Education Opportunity Center. This would greatly expand upon our Student Access strategic goal, if funded.

David Manning (CIT and Safety Coordinator) hosted the Spring Safety Conference for 18 colleges of the Environmental Health & Safety Institute.

PHI THETA KAPPA honors society was named a “2 Star Chapter” and made good progress with the support of advisors Joy Moses-Hall and Alison Davis.

Angela Martin (Nursing) earned her MSN from ECU with a 4.0 GPA and was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor society.

Mary Daniel (Radiology) completed her BS in Radiologic Sciences from Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences

Laquan Black (HIT) was awarded the 2011 RHIA Scholarship from the NC Health Information Management Association. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor’s degree at Western Carolina University.

Hope your summer is relaxing and productive!

G. Dennis Massey, President