

January 31, 2018

College Update

This will go out a day early because I will be in Raleigh tomorrow for the Quarterly Presidents meeting. I appreciate the news items you provide for me to include in these monthly reports, and I will continue to include as many of them as possible plus keep you informed on the highlights of Board of Trustees and campus issues and events.

Today was the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Pitt Community College Pharmaceutical Services Center (PSC) at the TEC Center north of the river, the former home of the PCC Biotechnology Department program (now in the Walter and Marie Williams Building). The new program, funded by GoldenLeaf, NC Biotech Center, Pitt County Committee of 100, Economic Development Commission, NC East Alliance, and Pitt Community College, includes equipment, a manufacturing/lab environment and training related to solid dosage pharmaceuticals. It is already helping Mayne Pharma, Thermo-Fisher, and other area companies to train new and continuing employees to improve practices. We will also be acquainting our current students with employment opportunities in this growing field in eastern NC. More than 8000 people are employed in this sector just in this region.

Mark Phillips of the NC Biotech Center and Vice President Thomas Gould and Mike Renn of PCC, among others, have played important roles in getting this program going. It represents a solid partnership with ECU as well, which is offering courses and analytical services on their campus. This is one of our strongest connections with business and industry, and I hope there will be more partnerships in other sectors.

The upcoming Presidents meeting will finalize funding proposals for the upcoming session of the General Assembly. This includes an improved instructional formula for continuing education programs directly connected to the workforce. I would also like to see more funding for advising.

PCC will be welcoming Pitt County Commissioners to our campus on February 21 for a meeting with Trustees and a tour of facilities. I recently presented our 2018-2023 Capital Plan to the Commissioners, which included the Design Technology Workforce Building and over \$750K in major maintenance projects. We will be moving forward with a new roof for the Greenville Center soon. Please communicate our importance to county commissioners and other officials. We are only ranked #47 of 58 NC community colleges in county financial support per student. That needs to improve.

Another topic to be addressed in Raleigh is the number of holidays offered for community college employees. In response to a State Auditor report, the State Board of Community Colleges has developed a draft policy which limits colleges to 12 days in line with other state institutions. This should not impact our instructional program but it will definitely affect how we handle the "maintenance shutdown" days in December.

I want to thank everyone who worked to get students registered and started in classes this spring semester. Nevertheless, it appears that we are 3% below last spring term, so we are promoting late start classes forcefully and will continue strong efforts in recruitment and retention of students. Careful and persistent advising is more important than ever.

Recognitions and Accomplishments

- Happy Gingras and Patricia Adams have authored Blended Learning & Flipped Classrooms, a very useful instructional improvement guide which includes input from a number of PCC faculty and staff. Bravo for this major accomplishment!
- Patricia Adams (Psychology) has also initiated creation of Psi Beta, a national student honors society in psychology. Over 500 PCC students will qualify for membership! This initiative will aid transfer and student performance.
- Ray Taylor (Human Services) reports 5-year accreditation for many Human Services major programs. This is Dr. Taylor's fourth self-study and will be valid until 2022.
- Craig Carico and Candace Peaden have received initial CAAHEP accreditation for our Emergency Services Program. I thank Dean Neal for her persistent leadership!
- Vice President Thomas Gould has been reappointed to the Pitt County Economic Development Commission, very important in PCC's service to area employers and in attracting new employers. Ernis Lee is also on this important group.
- Laurie Weston reports that Transitional Studies will be the lead program in "Career Ready," a state distance learning project. PCC is also coordinating with ECU's Department of Special Ed with student interns.
- The PCC Basketball team won 110-65 over Vance Granville this week and will host **six home games** in February. Come out to support our Bulldogs!

County Commissioner Jimmy Garris asked me to communicate his sincere thanks for the cards and letters he received during his recent surgery. He said that he was impressed by the concern expressed for him by so many.

I felt humbled to be named Greenville/Pitt County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year recently. I truly feel that this was more a recognition of Pitt Community College and the great progress and impact PCC has had over the years locally and regionally. It was a statement of pride in what you are all accomplishing every day. The bar has been set high for the future!

G. Dennis Massey, President