Pearl River Community College

MISSION STATEMENT
STRATEGIC GOALS
and
HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2012
Pearl River Community College operates on a basic premise of continuous improvement. Always striving to develop and implement new concepts, programs, and ideas, the College has a long and proud history of success and accomplishments. With more than 103 years of service to the citizens of South Mississippi, the College continues to embrace the notion that it is our mission to provide quality educational services for all who seek them.

We are extremely proud that our students continue to succeed in so many arenas. The commitment of the faculty and staff of our institution to the well-being of every student is demonstrated each and every day. A review of this publication outlining the institutional and personal accomplishments of our college will reveal an on-going pattern of continued success.

The College continues to build on the premise that we are moving from “good to great.” We are convinced that we do many things extremely well in preparing students to move into the future. Whether the next step is entry into the workplace or the continued pursuit of higher education, Pearl River students are prepared with the skills and knowledge to take that next step.

Validation for the College’s efforts has come in many forms of recognition. A major recognition for the quality of our programs and services has come with the College’s recognition as a national finalist for the past two years for the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The Aspen Prize has recognized the College as being among America’s top two-year institutions of higher learning.

While we are proud of all that has been accomplished in the past, it is our commitment to a model of continuous improvement that will keep us moving forward.

William A. Lewis, Ed.D.
Mission Statement

Pearl River Community College is a public institution committed to providing quality educational and service opportunities for all who seek them.

Quality Educational Programs

Strategic Goal: To prepare students to complete a degree or certificate program and to be successful in careers for which they have been prepared.

Commitment Statement: Pearl River Community College is committed to providing accredited programs that enable students to earn Associate in Applied Science Degrees, Associate in Arts Degrees, Certificates of Proficiency, and Certificates of Completion; to pass licensure examinations; and to gain employment in their chosen fields.

Highlights of Accomplishments

2009-2012

- Pearl River Community College (PRCC) was named as a national finalist for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence in 2011 and 2012.
- The Pearl River Community College Honors Institute was established for students who have demonstrated high performance and exemplary academic leadership abilities.
- The College received a National Center for Academic Transformation grant to implement course redesign which has led to increased success rates, increased retention rates, and decreased withdrawal rates in mathematics courses.
- During the 2009-2012 school years, numerous programs, including Medical Laboratory Technology, Associate Degree Nursing, Practical Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant Technology, and Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology were reaccredited.
- In 2011, a PRCC Forrest County Center student was one of 20 students named to the All-USA Community College Academic Team.
- PRCC awarded a record 860 degrees and certificates in 2011-2012.
- Employment for students who completed a career or technical program was 93 percent for the 2010-2011 Poplarville completers/graduates and 91 percent for the Forrest County Center completers/graduates (which exceeded the State requirement) in jobs related to their degrees or certificates.
Exceptional Student Services

Strategic Goal: To provide quality student services.

Commitment Statement: Pearl River Community College is committed to serving the needs of our student body by providing specialized services.

Highlights of Accomplishments 2009-2012

• Student Success Centers, funded by PRCC’s Title III grant, were established on the Poplarville Campus and at the Forrest County Center and include a computer lab and a training/conference room equipped with the latest technology. In addition, student e-Portfolios became available to all students, allowing them to present themselves professionally by showcasing their academic accomplishments.

• The Pearl River Singers Concert Choir travelled to Washington, D.C., in March 2012 where they performed concerts and toured the nation’s capital. The highly-acclaimed Jazz Cats band and RiverRoad showchoir travelled to Orlando, Florida, for performances at Walt Disney World as a part of Disney’s Magic Music Days.

• The String of Pearls dance team won the American All-Star Collegiate Division State Championship for the 12th consecutive year and was named as National Champions in the College Large Ensemble Division along with being in the top four among all college teams in the Open Division at the International Dance and Drill Team Championship.

• Student Support Services received funding in 2010 for a project period of five years to serve students who are considered to be at a disadvantage entering college.

• During the 2009-2010 school year, the men’s basketball team and the women’s softball and the women’s soccer teams each won state championships.

• Approximately 1200 students and 75 - 80 representatives of business organizations from Mississippi and other states participated in the Poplarville and Forrest County Center Career Fairs.

Innovative Programs

Strategic Goal: To provide access to college courses and programs using various instructional methods, including distance education.

Commitment Statement: Pearl River Community College is committed to making its programs and services available to all who seek an education. Various instructional methods, including distance education and off-site instruction, will be utilized, and the College will provide reasonable accommodations to the students with developmental disabilities.
Innovative Programs

• The PRCC Honors Institute initiated a formal agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency’s Gulf of Mexico Program which promotes working together to enhance environmental education in tandem with stimulating interest in the restoration and preservation of the Gulf of Mexico. The anticipated areas of cooperation include internships and co-ops, research opportunities, Gulf Program staff lectures, and community outreach and engagement.

• PRCC’s Title III grant provided funding to pilot Supplemental Instruction (SI) with designated general education courses to support student learning. SI is a learner supported strategy wherein SI Student Leaders offer outside SI sessions to assist students in developing learning strategies for mastering course materials.

• Ninety-five percent (95%) of participants in the 2012 Student Support Services Summer Bridge Program, which targets at-risk high school graduates and non-traditional students, successfully transitioned into full-time PRCC students.

• Online enrollment increased 12.1 percent from Fall 2011 to Fall 2012 and 19.6 percent from Spring 2011 to Spring 2012.

Highly Qualified Faculty and Staff

Strategic Goal: To employ qualified faculty and staff, compensate them well, and provide opportunities for their professional development.

Commitment Statement: Pearl River Community College will employ well-qualified faculty and staff, provide them with a competitive salary and benefit package, and invest in their professional development.

Highlights of Accomplishments 2009-2012

• Although state appropriations have declined, the PRCC average faculty salary ranked second in Mississippi.

• Professional development sessions, with emphasis being placed on creating a culture conducive to student success for today’s students, were offered annually for faculty and staff and included regional, national, and internationally-known speakers.

• A nine-month Leadership Program was begun in 2011 with 62 faculty and staff members of the first two classes graduating.

• Numerous faculty and staff held leadership positions in statewide educational organizations, including the Mississippi Association of Educators, the Mississippi Faculty Association for Community and Junior Colleges, the Mississippi Community/Junior College Counselors Association, the Council for Institutional Research, and others.
Augmented Resources

**Strategic Goal:** To provide facilities, technology, and support staff in order to improve student learning, enhance faculty and staff performance, augment community services, and make college services available via the Internet.

**Commitment Statement:** Pearl River Community College is committed to providing the resources necessary for students and others served by the College to have successful educational experiences.

**Highlights of Accomplishments 2009-2012**

- The Fine Arts and Communication Department was relocated to renovated Moody Hall, and work was begun on the much-anticipated Ethel Holden Brownstone Center for the Performing Arts which is slated for completion by the summer of 2013.

- Scholarships totaling $728,185 were awarded by donors through the PRCC Development Foundation.

- The PRCC Honors Institute received an award for $120,000 from the Lower Pearl River Valley Foundation for the Honors Lecture Series and Honors Library.

- In the spring of 2012, the Video On Demand database, which allows students and faculty to view films in the classroom or at home by using a computer, was purchased by library staff.

- PRCC was the first community college to receive a grant from the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, which will provide upgrades to the existing Wellness Center.

- PRCC received a grant from the Lower Pearl River Valley Foundation which will fund installation of lighting for the outdoor walking track, an outdoor comfort station, and fitness stations around the walking track.

- The Forrest County Center Dental Hygiene Program received grant funds from the Asbury Foundation for digital equipment, software, and scholarships.

- A new campus bookstore was opened at the Hancock Center to provide convenient access to academic textbooks.

Multi-Faceted Communication

**Strategic Goal:** To improve communication among campus personnel and community members regarding the College goals, objectives, and activities.

**Commitment Statement:** Pearl River Community College is committed to specific activities with the goal of improving communication.
Multi-Faceted Communication

Highlights of Accomplishments
2009-2012

- In 2012, the College Development Foundation established a new Lifetime Achievement Recognition Award to honor alumni who have achieved great success in their chosen profession.
- SurveyMonkey and Facebook began to be utilized to correspond with alumni, faculty, and students.
- The College partnered with the Poplarville Area Chamber of Commerce to promote Lunch and Learn sessions for the local business owners and College employees.
- A new campus portal (RiverGuide) provided single sign-on for email, WildcatWeb, and various online services provided by the College.
- College faculty, staff, and students were involved in numerous community service activities, including Camp Bluebird, the Diabetes Walk, the Alzheimer’s Walk, Breast Cancer Awareness, flu shot administration, and the PRCC Women’s Health Symposium.
- The Wellness Center offered numerous health-related activities and programs for the community and students.

Diverse Student Populations

Strategic Goal: To recruit and retain students from a diverse population.
Commitment Statement: Pearl River Community College is committed to increasing the number and diversity of the student population and to helping students complete academic and career/technical programs through strong recruitment, retention, and transition programs.

Highlights of Accomplishments
2009-2012

- A new orientation process was implemented that included an online orientation module for transfer students and a face-to-face orientation for all first-time college students.
- The nursing program incorporated components of both theory and skills lab to aid students’ success.
- A demography study was commissioned in order to research the enrollment potential from the PRCC District for the next decade and included a profile and an analysis of students, a projection model for future enrollment, and enrollment in a virtual campus.
Diverse Student Populations

- In Fall 2011, 50 percent of students enrolled were 21 years of age or older, and minorities made up 34 percent of the total student population.

- The Office of Recruitment offered many on-campus recruitment events which included Wildcat Fest, Allied Health Tour Day at the Forrest County Center, and the GED Program College Day.

- The first Career/Technical Student Conference was held in February 2012 with 372 high school students from throughout the PRCC District in attendance.

Superlative Workforce Training

**Strategic Goal:** To provide workforce training programs that meet requirements of business, industry, educational, and public service agencies for basic skills, specific job skills, and technical skills training.

**Commitment Statement:** The Pearl River Community College Department of Workforce Education is committed to enabling businesses, industries, educational and public service organizations, and individuals in need of employability skills improvement to achieve their personal and organizational job performance goals.

**Highlights of Accomplishments 2009-2012**

- To meet the growth of the ship building industry, PRCC offered non-credit pipe fitting and ship fitting classes at night and on weekends on the Poplarville Campus and at the Hancock Center.

- The welding program at the Hancock Center transitioned from a non-credit training program into a one-year Certificate of Proficiency credit program.

- Working with a consortium, the College received a Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCT) Grant from the Department of Labor.

- The College was awarded a Mississippi Community College Board Challenge Grant to utilize technology and online tools in the area of industrial training which allowed PRCC to develop an online technology skills lab in the Career Center.

- The PRCC Woodall Center partnered with Pine Belt Mental Health for a Department of Labor grant for veterans training.
Lee Kinabrew (2009-11) returned to college after a 10-year break and was named to the 2011 Phi Theta Kappa and USA Today All-USA Community College Academic Team. “Since entering PRCC and the community college system, I have been determined to have something to show for my life. Starting and completing community college might just be a watershed moment in your lives. It was in mine.”

Sidney Malone (1962-64) is an entrepreneur in Hattiesburg. “Since I was 18, I’ve been a part of the Pearl River family. Pearl River has made a huge difference in my life. Most of whatever success I’ve had, Pearl River has been around me.”

Picayune native Jim McQueen (1950-52) of Hattiesburg has been a sports illustrator for 40 years, including 30 with Golf Digest. “Those two years more than adequately prepared me for Southern Miss and beyond.”

Elaine Powell (1993-95) was an All-American in college and a Women’s National Basketball Association player who now is Assistant Women’s Basketball Coach at Ohio University. “Pearl River helped prepare me to go to a bigger university as well as prepared me for the world. My teachers and teammates were so supportive as well as my coach in making sure I graduated on time and getting me ready to go to LSU.”
Counterclockwise (top right), Marvin R. White Coliseum, Ethel Holden Brownstone Center for the Performing Arts, Lamar Hall Men’s Residence Hall, Moody Hall Courtyard and addition, new Public Relations offices, completion of RiverRoad Boulevard running through the campus (all on the Poplarville Campus). Bottom, Center for Career and Technical Education at the Forrest County Center.
Pearl River Community College began as Pearl River County Agricultural High School (PRCAHS) in Poplarville in September 1909. For the first several years the school was devoted solely to educating high school age students in academic studies and in agricultural and home sciences. In 1921, PRCAHS became the first agricultural high school in the State to offer freshman level college courses and was soon renamed Pearl River Junior College and Agricultural High School. High school classes were discontinued in 1960, and the school was renamed Pearl River Junior College until assuming its present name on July 1, 1988.

As a comprehensive community college, Pearl River now operates other instructional sites besides the main campus in Poplarville. The Forrest County Center was opened in Hattiesburg in 1969 and has been expanded several times, most recently with the addition of a new library and classroom building in 2006. The Lowery A. Woodall Advanced Technology Center was built in Hattiesburg in 2004 and is the headquarters for the College’s Workforce Education Department. The Hancock Center opened in Waveland on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in January 2005, only to be destroyed by Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005. The Hancock Center has since reopened and is experiencing a consistent increase in enrollment.

College-wide, Pearl River experienced its largest enrollment ever in 2010 with 5,532 students, an increase of 6.7 percent from the previous year. From August 2009 to May 2012, college enrollment grew by more than 1,500 students.
PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Main Campus
101 Highway 11 North
Poplarville, Mississippi 39470
(601) 403-1000

Forrest County Center
5448 Highway 49 South
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 30401
(601) 554-5555

Lowery A. Woodall
Advanced Technology Center
900 Sullivan Drive
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 30401
(601) 554-8687

Hancock Center
454 Highway 90
Waveland, Mississippi 30576
(228) 252-7000

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Pearl River Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Pearl River Community College. The Commission is only to be contacted about the accreditation status of the College, to file a third-party comment at the time of this College’s decennial review, or to file a complaint against the College with evidence that appears to support non-compliance with a standard or requirement. All normal inquiries about the institution, such as admission requirements, financial aid, educational programs, etc., should be addressed directly to Pearl River Community College and not to the Commission’s office.

Pearl River Community College is a member of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges and the Mississippi Association of Colleges and Universities.

Pearl River Community College offers equal education and employment opportunities. The College does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, veteran status, or disability. For inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies or to request accommodations, special assistance, or alternate format publication please contact Tonia Moody, ADA/Civil Rights Coordinator, at P.O. Box 5118, Poplarville, MS 30470 or (601) 403-1060.