MISSION STATEMENT
STRATEGIC GOALS
and
HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2003-2006
Printed Fall Semester
The history of Pearl River Community College is unique among the fifteen public community and junior colleges in Mississippi. The status of being the "first" two-year institution of higher learning in the State (1909) has placed the institution in a leadership role throughout the history of the College.

Unusual circumstances have come together for the College to anticipate future enrollment growth and the need for increased demands for programs and services. Hurricane Katrina dealt the College a devastating blow. The aftermath of the storm, however, provided an opportunity for significant growth as the population shift from South Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast has caused many from these coastal areas to relocate into the PRCC District. The influx of a new population along with the growth experienced prior to the storm positions the College for continued expansion of its programs and services.

While it is important for us to create a vision for the future to accommodate the new growth patterns, we also need to pause and reflect on the accomplishments of the past. This publication provides an overview of the College’s strategic goals (2003-2006) and the progress in meeting those goals.

We are proud of what has been accomplished throughout the history of our great institution. It is our intent to work even harder in the future to provide the quality educational opportunities that will assist the citizens of South Mississippi in reaching their full potential.

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 transfer and be successful in their studies at baccalaureate institutions and/or 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’s degrees and certificates of proficiency, to transfer to bachelor’s degree programs, to pass licensure examinations, and to gain employment in their chosen fields. Students completing these programs will express a high degree of satisfaction and will be successful in their careers and in their transfer programs.

**Highlights of Accomplishments 2003-2006**

- The College’s regional accreditation was reaffirmed in 2006. All programs participating in program accreditation were also reaffirmed during 2003-2006
- In 2004, all instructional programs were reorganized and moved under the direction of the newly created position of Vice President for Instruction.
- The Associate Degree Nursing program and the Practical Nursing program in Poplarville were combined into the Department of Nursing Education.
- The College’s Quality Enhancement Plan, involving technology-based instruction in mathematics, was approved.
- Pearl River Community College students generally performed as well as native students after transferring to senior colleges and universities in Mississippi and other states.
- Each year most students who completed career certificate and technical degree programs at Pearl River Community College went to work in their fields.
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 2003-2006

- Renovation projects have been completed in Marion Hall and the Men's Honor Dormitory, and construction on the new student suite style dormitories has begun.

- The PRCC campus security office was elevated to a fully certified campus police department in 2004, additional officers have been added to the department, a building for the department has been constructed, and several new campus police vehicles have been purchased.

- The Spirit of the River Marching Band performed in the State Street Thanksgiving Day Parade in Chicago in 2003, and the String of Pearls won the State Championship Collegiate Dance Team trophy every year during this time frame at the American All-Star Competition. The String of Pearls also won the Collegiate Division National Championship in 2003 and 2005.

- In addition to winning the State Show Choir Showdown in 2005, the RiverRoad Show Choir performed at Walt Disney World and at the Phi Theta Kappa International Conventions in Anaheim, California, and Seattle, Washington.

- The Jazz Cats Jazz Band performed at Walt Disney World in 2005, the Pearl River Singers performed a concert tour in England and Scotland in 2004, and theater productions of Grease (2004) and Big River (2005) were performed before sold-out crowds.

- The PRCC football team won State Championships in 2003, 2004, and 2005, and won the NJCAA National Championship in 2004; the men's basketball team won State Championships in 2003 and 2004; the men's soccer team won the State title in 2003 and the women's soccer team won the State title in 2005; the baseball team won the State Championship in 2004; and the women's basketball team won the Region 23 Championship in 2003.
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 offsite instruction, will be utilized, and the College will provide reasonable accommodations to the students with developmental disabilities.

**Highlights of Accomplishments 2003-2006**

- The Hancock Center in Waveland was officially opened in January 2005 and created a new avenue of accessibility for students living in the southern part of the College's service area; however, the facility was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and is in the process of being rebuilt.

- The PRCC distance education program was reviewed and approved by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 2004.

- During the 2005-2006 academic year, 91 percent of students who were active participants (met with the Developmental Disabilities Specialist as scheduled) in the SUCCESS Project were in good standing and maintained a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better.

- The Office of Extended Education which administers online and off-campus instruction was created and staffed.

- Thirty-seven courses were offered to students at off-campus sites in 2005, a 95 percent increase over the Fall 2003 offerings of 19.

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 2003-2006

- All PRCC faculty members are qualified, as affirmed by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 2006.

- Pearl River Community College instructors hold degrees from more than 65 American colleges and universities and from institutions in Europe and Africa. In addition to almost all the universities and colleges in Mississippi, these institutions include Princeton, Texas A & M, Ohio State, Duke, Tulane, Johns Hopkins, and many more.

- Employees held leadership positions in numerous professional, governmental, and civic organizations and, therefore, provided additional expertise for the community and region, gained and shared valuable knowledge and experience, and provided much recognition for the College.

- Although State funding was reduced during this period, professional development for the faculty has increased because of additional funding from Tech Prep, the PRCC Development Foundation, and a number of external sources.

- In spite of challenges presented by reductions in the State’s financial support, PRCC employees received salary increases.

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 2003-2006

- The Internet version of the College student information system, which is utilized by over 70 percent of all returning students to pre-schedule classes for the next semester, was enhanced; a new student identification card system was installed; and a wireless Internet service for students and faculty on the Poplarville Campus, at the Forrest County Center, and at the Lowery A. Woodall Advanced Technology Center was installed.
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.

Highlights of Accomplishments
2003-2006

- The administrative structure of the College was reorganized in 2004.
- New electronic message boards were installed at both the Poplarville Campus and the Forrest County Center.
- Alumni associations have been organized representing all six counties which compose the PRCC district.
- According to the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi, the College web site received first-place awards in 2003 and 2005 as the top web site in Mississippi among community colleges in the State, and the RiverSide, a quarterly publication for PRCC employees, alumni, and friends, was judged tops in institutional magazines in 2003 and 2004.
- PRCC periodicals, schedules, pictures, and bookstore items were made continuously available at the College display cart in Turtle Creek Mall.
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 2003-2006

• Enrollment increased 9.91 percent from Fall 2003 to Fall 2005.
• Plans for a new early registration session were implemented for students who achieved high academic goals while in high school.
• To allow more students to enroll, especially non-traditional students, innovative class schedules have included weekend, late afternoon, and more two-day-a-week classes.
• The PRCC Student Support Services Bridge to College Program was initiated in order to assist students who are at a disadvantage in their transition to college.

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: 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 2003-2006

• The Lowery A. Woodall Advanced Technology Center in Hattiesburg, a 35,000-square-foot facility which serves as the "crown jewel" of the PRCC Workforce Program, was opened in August 2004.
• From 2003-2006, Workforce Education personnel trained approximately 35,000 people.

• Pearl River Community College, in conjunction with the Mississippi Construction Education Foundation and Twin Districts Workforce Area, offered Project Outreach, four-week multi-craft programs in construction basics which trained students for direct entry into jobs associated with the rebuilding of South Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina.

• All Workforce Investment Act students who were enrolled in Allied Health programs had a 100 percent completion rate for the 2004-2005 school year.

• The Office of Adult Education Services served 2,921 students during the 2003-2006 time period, with more than 550 earning their General Education Diplomas.

Testimonials

Jean Baughman Wessel Templeton (1954-55), is the CEO and Chairman of the Board of Wesfam Restaurants, Inc., a franchisee of Burger King Corp. Her three children endowed a $20,000 scholarship to PRCC in her name.

"Pearl River allowed me to realize my long-time dream of obtaining a college education. The teachers took a real interest in us. Pearl River was a big part of my life. It makes me very happy to think that my family, through this scholarship, may be able to help some young person reach his or her goals of obtaining a college education. I had a great time there."

George Dale (1959-60), Mississippi's Insurance Commissioner, has served the State for eight terms. He currently is the longest-serving elected insurance commissioner in the country.

"People like me would not have an opportunity to get an education if not for community colleges. I remember my daddy gave me one acre of cotton and told me whatever you make on that acre, you can take it and go to school in Poplarville. I made one bale of cotton, and that's what I went to Pearl River on. My second year there I earned a basketball scholarship. Pearl River was mighty good to me."

Thomas Malone (1957-59), is the retired executive vice chairman of Milliken & Co., one of the largest privately owned textile manufacturers in the United States. The company employs more than 11,000 associates in 65 manufacturing operations worldwide.

"The best teachers I ever had were at Pearl River. And what (PRC head football coach) Dobie Holden taught me on the football field there fits business to a "T." He always had a game plan and then put his players in positions where they could achieve to the fullest of their potential. That's all I've done in getting to where I am today."

Testimonials
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While it is important for us to create a vision for the future to accommodate the new growth patterns, we also need to pause and reflect on the accomplishments of the past. Unusual circumstances have come together for the College to anticipate future enrollment growth and the need for increased demands for programs and services.

As this is being written in May 2006, the College continues to recover from extensive damage due to Hurricane Katrina. The Lowery A. Woodall Advanced Technology Center opened in Hattiesburg in October 2004. The Hancock Center opened in Waveland in January 2005, only to be destroyed by Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005. Reopening of the Hancock Center is planned for late 2006. The Lowery A. Woodall Advanced Technology Center opened in November of 2006.

Counterclockwise (top left) Malone Chapel, new addition to Forrest County Center, new boulevard through the main campus at Poplarville, Lowery A. Woodall Advanced Technology Center in Hattiesburg, Student Life addition to Crosby Hall, and (below) ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Hancock Center in Waveland.
Pearl River Community College (PRCC) is among the oldest colleges of its kind in the South and is the pioneer public junior college in Mississippi. PRCC began its journey as an agricultural high school in the first decade of the twentieth century and has since been a pathfinder for advanced education in South Mississippi.

Pearl River County Agricultural High School (PRCAHS) opened its doors in Poplarville in 1909. For the first eleven 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 to offer freshman college courses. By 1924, the school had become the first public two-year college in the State and was soon renamed Pearl River Junior College. The institution’s name was changed to Pearl River Community College on July 1, 1988. The name change reflects the comprehensive academic, career, technical, and community services programs that are offered through the College.

The College operates several instructional sites. A post-secondary vocational-technical center was built in 1969 in Hattiesburg and developed into the Pearl River Community College Forrest County Center. The facility has been expanded several times. The most recent addition is a new library and classroom building that opened in the Spring of 2006. The Hancock Center opened in Waveland in January 2005, only to be destroyed by Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005. Reopening of the Hancock Center is planned for late 2006. The Lowery A. Woodall Advanced Technology Center opened in Hattiesburg in October 2004.

As this is being written in May 2006, the College continues to recover from extensive damage due to Hurricane Katrina. M.R. White Coliseum and Moody Hall Auditorium were the most significant losses on the Poplarville Campus. Plans are being drawn for the construction of a new performing arts center and a new coliseum/assembly center.
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 39401
(601) 554-5555

Hancock Center
454 Highway 90, Suite D
Waveland, Mississippi 39576
(228) 467-9569

Lowery A. Woodall
Advanced Technology Center
906 Sullivan Drive
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
(601) 554-4667

http://www.prcc.edu
webmaster@prcc.edu

Pearl River Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award degrees. For more information regarding institutional accreditation status only, please contact the Commission on Colleges: 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, Telephone Number (404) 679-4501.

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 educational and employment opportunities to all persons without regard to sex, race, religion, color, national origin, age, or handicap.