PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MISSION STATEMENT

STRATEGIC GOALS

and

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2009
Message from the President

It is with a great sense of pride that we share with you some of the accomplishments of Pearl River Community College. The College opened its doors for the first time on September 8, 1909, as Pearl River County Agricultural High School and later became Mississippi’s first public two-year institution of higher learning in 1921, making the College unique among the State’s 15 community and junior colleges. The 2008 – 2009 school year was a milestone in the history of our college as we celebrated 100 years of service to our six county district of Forrest, Hancock, Jefferson Davis, Lamar, Marion, and Pearl River Counties.

Always a leader in providing quality educational opportunities, the College has continued to expand its programs and services. As can be seen by reviewing this publication which highlights some of the many accomplishments of the past three years, Pearl River Community College has continued to make progress in meeting our strategic goals.

As the College begins its second century of service, there is much of which to be proud; however, most significant are the accomplishments of our students as they continue to bring recognition to the institution for their achievements in the classroom, on the athletic fields, and in the fine arts. Pearl River Community College continues to be a leader by fulfilling its mission of “providing quality educational and service opportunities for all who seek them.”

William A. Lewis, Ed.D.
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 2006-2009

- PRCC became the first college in Mississippi to be approved to offer the Certificate of Proficiency, the Associate in Applied Science Degree, and the Associate in Arts Degree in Criminal Justice. These programs are available both in Poplarville and in Hattiesburg.

- The accreditation of programs in Dental Assisting Technology, Dental Hygiene Technology, Early Childhood Education Technology, Medical Radiologic Technology, and Surgical Technology was reaffirmed.

- Programs in Construction Equipment Operation and Utility Lineman Technology were begun on the Poplarville Campus, and a program in welding was begun at the Hancock Center.

- The College’s Quality Enhancement Plan, which is well underway on the Poplarville Campus and at the Forrest County Center, has been successful in improving student learning in algebra classes.

- The Hancock Center now offers more than 50% of the courses required for an associate degree and is undergoing a substantive change review by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

- The Counseling, Advisement, and Placement Center was established in July 2007 along with a ten member advisory committee.
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 2006-2009

- The “Spirit of the River” marching band traveled to Chicago in November 2008 in order to participate in the nationally televised McDonald’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.

- The “RiverRoad” showchoir hosted the Mississippi Showchoir Contest in February 2009 with more than 30 choirs in competition.

- The “String of Pearls” dance team won the American All-Star Collegiate Division Championship for the ninth consecutive year in January 2009. The Pearls also received top honors in the College Large Ensemble Division at the International Dance and Drill Team Championship and placed in the top five among all college teams.

- Numerous community service activities were sponsored by the Wellness Center, including health screenings, ballroom dance classes, and nutritional classes.

- Dobie Holden Stadium underwent a massive renovation project in 2008 with new press box facilities constructed, aluminum bleachers installed, an additional seating section constructed, a new ticket office entrance built on the south end of the facility, and a statue of Coach Dobie Holden erected at the entrance.

- New suite style state-of-the-art dormitories were opened in 2006 and house 264 females and 118 males.

- Beginning in 2007, Military Recognition Night was planned and implemented in order to recognize and honor our PRCC service men and women.

- The PRCC football team won its fourth straight MACJC state title in 2006 and played in the NJCAA National Championship game.
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.

Highlights of Accomplishments 2006-2009

• In the fall of 2006, many of the algebra courses offered at Pearl River Community College began using an online-assignment system called MyMathLab with students being provided with interactive tutorial exercises, eBook and multimedia learning aids, and online tutoring from a math tutor center.

• The Student Support Services Summer Bridge Program provided assistance for students with disabilities and others in their transition to college course work and campus life.

• The use of instructional technology is expanding as instructors incorporate technology tools (such as the state-sponsored Blackboard).

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  
2006-2009

• Pearl River Community College instructors have earned degrees from more than 89 American colleges and universities. In addition to almost all of the universities and colleges in Mississippi, degrees have been earned at Duke, Johns Hopkins, Maryland, Michigan State, Princeton, Texas, Tulane, and many other universities.

• 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.

• In 2009, the PRCC Association of Educational Office Professionals, a professional organization for support staff, was organized.

• 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  
2006-2009

• Wireless capability was provided to all dormitories, with full coverage being provided in five.

• In November 2006, the College received notification of an award of $350,000 from the Mississippi Arts Commission which is to be applied to the new Ethel Holden-Brownstone Center for the Arts on the main campus.

• A new library and learning lab were opened at both the Forrest County Center (summer of 2006) and the Hancock Center (summer of 2008).
Since July 1, 2006, giving through the Development Foundation has totaled more than $2.7 million, with financial support for faculty and staff development increasing by 25 per cent. In addition, more than 900 scholarships totaling over $700,000 have been awarded to students during the last three years.

In 2007, a classroom was added for Workforce Education classes and an additional 1,500 square feet were added for office space and two additional classrooms at the Hancock Center.

Pearl River Community College was awarded more than $6 million in grant funds over the three year period beginning July 1, 2006.

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 2006-2009**

- According to the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi, the College’s 30-minute televised Christmas Show received first-place awards in 2007 and 2009. The College’s 30-second television advertisement was judged tops in the State among two-year colleges in 2007 and 2008.

- Plans for the first PRCC Women’s Health Symposium were implemented in 2007 with 200 women participating and its third Symposium in 2009 with 300 in attendance.

- A new emergency mass notification system was implemented in Fall 2008 and serves as an immediate communication system to all faculty and staff during times of severe weather, campus threats, and class cancellations.

- The College Centennial Celebration was held in 2008-2009 and involved numerous events and hundreds of alumni, business, and industry supporters.

- A new campus-wide emergency action plan was implemented in 2007.

- “Wildcat Connection,” a proactive retention effort, was started in the fall of 2008 to assist students with having a successful college experience.
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 2006-2009**

- Enrollment increased 12.3% from Fall 2006 to Fall 2008, and online enrollment increased 65% from Spring 2007 to Spring 2009.
- In the 2008 Fall Semester, 49% of the students were adults 21 or older, and, according to audited records, members of minorities made up 32% of the enrolled students.
- In the 2009 Spring Semester, approximately 200 high school students were dually enrolled in high school and college classes.
- The Office of Student Support Services and the ADA/Civil Rights Coordinator received grants to train faculty, staff, and students to become more aware of methods to assist students who have disabilities.

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 2006-2009**

- Since July 2006, more than 195 workforce projects have been completed by the Workforce Education Department totaling approximately $1.3 million.
• Open entry/open exit workforce training endeavors allowed unemployed or underemployed citizens the opportunity to gain entry level job skills to enter the metal trades.

• In 2008, the National Science Foundation awarded PRCC a $500,000 grant to create the Utility Lineman Technology Program.

• The Momentum WIRED Grant created centers of excellence in training advanced manufacturing workers.

• PRCC developed a Welding on Wheels (WOW) mobile training rig to transport welding equipment and supplies to local high schools in order to offer introductory training to secondary students.

Testimonials

Dr. Janice Burke Touchstone (1998-2000) is a dentist in Hattiesburg. "PRCC afforded me the great foundation that I needed to excel at Millsaps College and in dental school. It was the perfect opportunity for me to meet new people and a caring faculty and staff. Of all the schools I have attended throughout my college and graduate career, PRCC will always be my favorite."

Ms. Sheri Hinton Henry (1973-75) of Fairfax, Virginia, is Associate Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Pearl River Community College and Poplarville, Mississippi, gave me what I needed to do my job in Washington—a good quality education, a good foundation. Pearl River was like family. I'm still friends with classmates I had while attending Pearl River."

Dr. Pamela Johnson Rowsey (1972-74) of Durham, North Carolina, is Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "When I entered PRCC, I was only 16 years old. The 'River' provided a ‘safe-haven’ for a very frightened teenager. The student body became family, and the professors were nurturing and presented excellence in the classroom. PRCC was the beginning of my professional career."

Mr. Jon Mark Weathers (1966-68) of Hattiesburg is the District Attorney, 12th Judicial Circuit Court District. "PRCC means a great deal to me for a number of reasons. I was not really prepared for college following graduation from high school. At PRCC, I was blessed with very good teachers who took a personal interest in me, I developed good study habits and the desire to learn while at PRCC. Such served me well as I continued my pursuit for higher education. The environment at PRCC, teachers and students, allowed me to develop confidence in my ability to excel in life. I also met new people and developed life long friendships at PRCC."
Buildings and Grounds Projects
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2009

Counterclockwise (top left) Centennial Courtyard, Transportation Shop and Warehouse, Stockstill Equipment and Training Building, Center for Career-Technical Education, new walking bridge at the Forrest County Center, Hancock Center library, renovated Dobie Holden Stadium, Dobie Holden statue (inset), and (top right) new men’s dormitory.
Pearl River Community College began as Pearl River County Agricultural High School 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.

Pearl River has just concluded a series of special events celebrating its Centennial Year. The final event was a special service in Malone Chapel on the Poplarville Campus to rededicate the College for the next one hundred years.