

★ HURRICANE KATRINA ★

Helping hand

Fellow community colleges provide aid to PRCC

POPLARVILLE - Thanks to the efforts of many people, including workers from several community colleges in Mississippi, Pearl River Community College was able to resume classes on Monday, Sept. 19, three weeks after Hurricane Katrina made landfall on Monday, Aug. 29.

"We certainly appreciate what these other community colleges were able to do for us," said PRCC President William Lewis.

"Some of their skilled workers, like carpenters, electricians, plumbers and locksmiths were here lending us a helping hand."

Among the community colleges who sent workers to Poplarville were Copiah-Lincoln, Itawamba, East Central, Mississippi Delta, Northwest, Northeast and Hinds. Workers from other community colleges are expected in the next week or two as PRCC bounces back from Hurricane Katrina's devastation.

Pearl River Community College suffered between \$15-25 million in damages from Hurricane Katrina.

"Without the help of these workers from the other community colleges, we would not have been able to make it in time to resume classes Monday," said Clint Tapper, director of the PRCC Physical Plant.

"If we can ever return the favor, we will." PRCC President William Lewis said even though the brunt of the school's damages were on the Poplarville main campus, the Forrest County Center and Lowery Woodall Advanced Technology Center in Hattiesburg and the Hancock Center in Waveland did not come through the storm unscathed.

The Hancock Center, located on U.S. 90, was basically destroyed. Portable classrooms are being shipped to Hancock County.



POPLARVILLE - Physical plant employees from East Central Community College spent some time in Poplarville this week helping prepare Pearl River Community College for the return of students the week of Sept. 19. The workers included from left: Wes Chandler, Scott Everett, Damion Russell, Jonathan Merritt, Sean Mowdy, Artie Foreman, Stuart Tune and Adam Foreman.



POPLARVILLE - Physical plant employees from Hinds Community College spent some time in Poplarville this month helping prepare Pearl River Community College for the return of students the week of Sept. 19. The workers included from left: Jesse Jones, Jack Lee, and George Reid.



POPLARVILLE - Physical plant employees from Mississippi Delta Community College spent some time in Poplarville this week helping prepare Pearl River Community College for the return of students the week of Sept. 19. The workers included from left: Jim Moore, Danny Abney and Mack Sheffield.



POPLARVILLE - Physical plant employees from Northeast Community College spent some time in Poplarville this week helping prepare Pearl River Community College for the return of students the week of Sept. 19. The workers included from left: Frank Gambill, Hunt Barron and Ray Hall.



POPLARVILLE - Physical plant employees from Itawamba Community College spent some time in Poplarville this week helping prepare Pearl River Community College for the return of students the week of Sept. 19. The workers included from left: Terry McCarthy and Jerene Fikes.



POPLARVILLE - Physical plant employees from Northwest Community College spent some time in Poplarville this week helping prepare Pearl River Community College for the return of students the week of Sept. 19. The workers included from left: Jamie Kennedy and David Lambert.

More photographs from President Bush's visit to PRCC



Dr. Adam Breerwood (above left), Dean of Student Services at PRCC, didn't get quite as close to President Bush as Clint Tapper, Director of the Physical Plant (above right). Actually, it was Dr. Breerwood who shot the photograph of Tapper and the president.



From left, President Bush relaxes before his speech, shakes hands with city and county officials, and then signs a copy of the Hattiesburg American's Hurricane Katrina edition for someone in the crowd.