1.2 History of Piedmont Community College

Last Revised: January 2011

Policy Statement: N/A

Purpose/Definitions: In 1970, progressive minded citizens in Person County recognized the need for a local institution to offer job training and educational opportunities for high school graduates and other adults. Person County Technical Institute began with the appointment of a Board of Trustees, operating under the North Carolina State Board of Education and the Department of Community Colleges.

The Institute began operation on July 1, 1970, with the first full-time students enrolling on September 23, 1970. During the general election of November 1970, the citizens of Person County approved a referendum authorizing local financial support and endorsing a charter to be issued to Person Technical Institute.

Name Changes

May 1971: The Board of Trustees and the State Board of Education concurred in changing the name of the institution to Piedmont Technical Institute.

September 1979: The Board of Trustees unanimously approved changing the name from Piedmont Technical Institute to Piedmont Technical College. The Person County Board of Commissioners concurred with the Board’s decision, and the name Piedmont Technical College became effective October 1, 1979.

September 1987: The Board of Trustees unanimously approved changing the name from Piedmont Technical College to Piedmont Community College. The Person and Caswell County Boards of Commissioners concurred with the Board’s decision, and the name change became effective on January 1, 1988.

Campus Growth

July 1974: The Board of Trustees requested that the County Commissioners authorize a $2.5 million bond issue. The voters of Person County showed overwhelming support for the bond issue in November 1974. The Person County Campus facilities were built, and the institution moved to its permanent campus in November 1977. The campus was formally dedicated on June 4, 1978.

Effective July 1, 1985, Piedmont Technical College was designated by the North Carolina General Assembly as the primary service provider for Caswell County. The initial building on the Caswell County Campus was constructed on property provided by the Caswell County Board of Commissioners after funds were allocated through special appropriations from the North Carolina General Assembly. The facility was dedicated in 1988.

A positive vote of the citizens of North Carolina in November 1993 resulted in additions to both campuses that were approved for construction by the Board of Trustees from 1995-1997. The Adult Learning Center addition to the Caswell County Campus, occupied in 1997, nearly doubled the size of
the Caswell County Campus facilities. The new Classroom/Faculty Office Building on the Person County Campus opened in 1998.

Summer 2000: The Student Success Center (renamed the Academic Success Center in fall 2009) began providing educational support services to students in addition to providing access to computers and the Internet.

October 2000: The Science Lab Initiative, led by the PCC Foundation, resulted in the renovation of science labs on the Person County Campus, equipping the labs with modern equipment and technology.

November 2000: North Carolina citizens approved a $3.1 billion Higher Education Bond, providing $600 million to colleges in the North Carolina Community College System for new construction and for repair and renovation of existing facilities.

Resulting facility improvements on the Person County Campus included the renovation of the gymnasium to house the Learning Resources Center and Distance Education in 2005. In 2006, the former location of the Learning Resources Center was renovated to house Student Development services in one location, as well as to provide office space for two Continuing Education programs, Human Resources Development, and Adult Basic Skills. The Student Center was remodeled to include a new entrance, additional restrooms, and other upgrades.

On the Caswell County Campus, an additional classroom building was constructed in 2006 with special facilities to accommodate two of the College’s signature programs, Film and Video Production Technology and Digital Effects and Animation Technology.

In 2009, the Technical Education Building was constructed on the Person County Campus.

**Other Milestones**

- The Piedmont Technical Institute Foundation (now known as the Piedmont Community College Foundation) was organized in December 1978 to support the students, faculty, and staff of the College through private solicitation of financial support.

- The College opened a business incubator at its Small Business Center in uptown Roxboro in 1994 to assist new businesses in getting started. The Center now operates as the Business Development and Entrepreneurship Center.

- Piedmont Community College, along with all community colleges in the state, converted from the quarter system to the semester system of instruction in the fall of 1997.

- The PCC Alumni Partnership was organized in 2004 to engage alumni in ongoing support of the College.

- The College was designated multi-campus status in May 2005, which increased the resources available to the Caswell County Campus.

- A model of cooperation has been developed among the College, the Person and Caswell County Boards of Education, and the Person and Caswell County Boards of Commissioners. This model enhances the
capability of the College to provide post-secondary education, and job training opportunities to new and expanding industries in Person and Caswell Counties.

**Presidents**
1970-1973  Dr. Craven H. Sumerell  
1973-1987  Dr. Edward W. Cox  
1987-2009  Dr. H. James Owen  
2009-present  Dr. Walter C. Bartlett

**Approval Authority/Monitoring Authority:** Piedmont Community College’s Board of Trustees has approval authority for this policy. The Director, Public Information has monitoring authority for this policy.

**Procedure:** N/A

**Legal Citation:** N.C.G.S. 115-D

**History:** Effective January 1988; revised January 2011