

# **The Academic Update**

Issue 15 Fall 2025

# ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING: Kayla Holland

PCCUA is dedicated to enhancing student learning through ongoing assessment practices that strengthen both instruction and curriculum. Over the past year, faculty have aligned program outcomes with general education competencies and analyzed student work to refine teaching strategies and support services. PCCUA's Core Competencies—social and civic responsibility, technology utilization, analytical and critical thinking, communication, and cultural competency—are evaluated using standardized rubrics and other measures, with results shared during faculty-led Assessment Days. Beginning this year, the college is transitioning to the Watermark platform to track assessment data and guide continuous improvement. In the spring 2025 semester, student course evaluations were also integrated into Watermark. Once fully implemented, the platform will streamline both assessment and evaluation processes. The Assessment Committee, in collaboration with HLC Assessment Academy members, continues to develop and implement the PCCUA Assessment Handbook and Framework. Assessment reports, including Program Reviews and the Strategic Plan, are available on the college website. Learn more at www.pccua.edu/about-pccua/assessment.

#### **CAREER PATHWAYS: Kim Rawls**

The Career Pathway Program met state mandated performance goals for FY25 which allowed continued funding for FY26. CPI will continue to fund income eligible parents as well as non-custodial parents and justice involved parents who were made eligible for CPI services in FY26. Career Pathways remains commented to building partnerships with community agencies and organizations, and to assist students in reducing barriers that may hinder or prevent them from gaining the training or education needed to join the workforce. Employment after completion was added as a performance measure for the program and to complete this goal CPI staff implemented "work-ready" workshops and activities for students during FY25 to better prepare students for the job market.

#### **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES: Von Daniels**

The 2025-26 academic year signifies the renewal of the Student Support Services (SSS) five-year grant cycle, aimed at enhancing the educational progress of low-income, disabled, and first-generation college students. Our goal is to support these students in successfully completing their postsecondary studies, either by

#### ACADEMIC LEADERS

Dr. Keith Pinchback, Chancellor
Monica Quattlebaum, VC for Instruction
Michelle Waites, VC of Admissions and Records
Dr. Kim Kirby, VC for Arkansas County
Stan Sullivant, VC for Finance & Administration
Rhonda St. Columbia, VC for College Advancement and Resource Development

**Dr. Kimberley Johnson,** VC for Student Services and Campus Life

Lee Williams, Associate VC of Information Technology Shanna Pryor, Dean of Allied Health Dr. Carol Birth, Dean of Arts and Sciences Kayla Holland, Dean of Business and Information

Systems

Joe St. Columbia, Dean of Applied Technology
Workforce Development and Training

**Douglas Bielemeier,** Director of Institutional Research **Arthur Gentry,** Director of the Career and Technical Center

Von Daniels, Director of Student Support Services Kim Rawls, Director of Career Pathways Christina Sanderlin, Director of Adult Education Kim Banks, Director of Financial Aid Amy Hudman, Director of Distance Learning and Title

High School Relations: Savanna Bisswanger (D), Kevin Martin-Arnold (H), Michelle Blasengame (S)

## SSS cont.

transferring to four-year institutions or entering the workforce. Notably, we've seen significant growth in our participant numbers and have fostered positive relationships with faculty and staff, resulting in improved student outcomes.

This year, we will introduce a podcast room to provide an innovative platform for discussions that extend beyond traditional classroom methods. This initiative will promote critical thinking, communication skills, and collaborative learning, allowing students to access and revisit educational content more effectively. Looking ahead, we will strengthen our impact in Arkansas County by adding a full-time staff member and providing enhanced workshops, tutoring, and campus visits. Additionally, we will implement Pathful Explorer to facilitate virtual job shadowing and career exploration, enabling students to connect with professionals in their desired fields.

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#### ADULT EDUCATION: Christina Sanderlin

PCCUA Adult Education is excited to start the new 2025-2026 program year, riding high on the previous year's accomplishments. The Adult Ed Team did such a great job last year recruiting students, retaining students, and assisting students in achieving diplomas, credentials, and certifications that it met and exceeded its goal of 100 participants. PCCUA Adult Ed served 146 participants and met all of the program's performance goals.

PCCUA Adult Education will continue to offer High School Diplomas, Integrated Education and Training (IET) certifications, Workforce Preparation certifications, Distance Learning, and ESL (English as a second language) instruction. PCCUA Adult Ed will also continue to provide a SNAP Coordinator/Career Coach to connect students with education and job training programs, future employment, and partner agencies in order to achieve student goals and to overcome their barriers.

PCCUA Adult Ed will have new hours this fall at its two locations:

- Helena: Mon. Fri. 8:00am-4:30pm and Mon. – Thurs. 5:00pm-8:00pm
- PCCUA Adult Ed Center Marianna: 530 Atkins Blvd.
   Marianna, AR 72342
   Mon.-Fri. 8:00am – 4:30pm
   Sat. 8:00am – 12:00pm

# **CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTERS: Art Gentry**

The Career and Technical Centers continue to provide high-quality educational opportunities across all three campuses. Current programs include Advanced Manufacturing, Computer Engineering, Medical Professions, and Welding.

With the implementation of the ACCES initiative, more CTE and concurrent enrollment classes are being evaluated for availability to high school students. This school year, the welding program will expand to all three campuses. Additionally, an application to add a Construction Technology program is being submitted, with plans to launch in Fall 2026.

To create a more authentic college experience, the Helena campus has adopted a student class schedule that mirrors that of college students. Additionally, beginning this fall, high school students will also receive college ID cards, further reinforcing the college-like environment.

For the 2025–26 school year, online learning resources for Advanced Manufacturing, Computer Engineering, and Medical Professions will continue to be available, offering students greater flexibility and accessibility. TransFR Virtual Reality (VR) headsets will remain in use across all programs, allowing students to train in immersive, realistic environments while minimizing the cost of physical equipment and materials.

# CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT: Savanna Bisswanger (D), Michelle Blasengame (S), Kevin Martin-Arnold (H)

PCCUA is committed to expanding partnerships with local high schools, offering students the opportunity to earn an Associate of Arts degree and certificates of proficiency in various programs. Through the ACCESS to Acceleration (A2A) scholarship, high school students receive funding to enroll in concurrent courses that count toward both high school and college credit. Concurrently enrolled students participate on all three PCCUA campuses, with courses offered at both the high school and PCCUA locations. The program is accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP), and PCCUA has submitted the Concurrent Enrollment Authorization Report for accreditation through the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE). These accreditations reinforce the program's commitment to the highest standards, ensuring students benefit from a seamless transition from high school to college.

# **PCCUA LIBRARIES: Keri Simpson**

Library staff in all three campuses have worked tirelessly to create a welcoming place for students seeking a space to research, study and unwind. Student traffic in the libraries has increased and the goal is to keep this trend going. Staff members look forward to each new academic year and enjoy assisting students, staff, and faculty with needed materials and information. As we prepare for the upcoming semester, our team is focused on ensuring that all students have timely access to the materials they need for their courses. We are excited about the continued success of the Rowdy Rents Bookstore, which has proven to be a valuable resource since its launch in 2023.

#### **DeWitt**

Mon. - Thurs. 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fri. 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

#### Helena

Monday - Wednesday 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

#### Stuttgart

Monday - Thursday 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday 7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.



# ALLIED HEALTH: Shanna Pryor ADN

The 2024 first time, annual licensure exam pass rate for the ADN graduates is 76.47%. Although the exam pass rate dropped from the previous year, the program continues to maintain the Arkansas State Board of Nursing expected level of achievement. In the spring of 2025, the ADN program incorporated ExamSoft, which is a software that creates exams that mirror the NLEX-RN. Through a large grant, the program has been able to hire a Curriculum Coordinator/Student Success Navigator and new equipment. The ADN faculty continues to prepare an Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) Self-Study Report to prepare for a site visit in the fall of 2025 for continuing accreditation with ACEN.

#### PN:

The program had its annual 5-year Arkansas State Board of Nursing visit in April and received all positive comments along with achieving 100% on the first time, annual licensure exam pass rate on NCLEX-PN for the last 11 years. The PN curriculum consists of numerous strategies to assist students in achieving end-of-program learning outcomes. Some of the strategies include faculty led tutoring sessions, group test review with answer rationales, and a 3day ATI live review and the addition of a Curriculum Coordinator/Student Success Navigator. Instructors have focused on increasing one on one time with each student in the laboratory and clinical setting to increase clinical judgement and critical thinking skills. The program has received means to purchase new equipment to better help our students through simulation. New equipment being purchased includes a medication dispensing system and a workstation on wheels (WOW).



#### MLT/PLB:

The PCCUA MLT and Phlebotomy programs continue to effectively prepare students to enter the laboratory profession. Three MLT students graduated in May 2025 and secured job offers prior to graduation, reflecting the strong preparation provided by our program. Lab managers across all clinical sites consistently commend our graduates' performance and readiness. This past academic year we had five phlebotomy students earn their technical certificate. Looking ahead, eight MLT students are on track to complete the program in May 2026.

#### MLT/PLB cont.:

Our MLT and Phlebotomy programs consistently excel in graduation rates, job placement, and satisfaction among graduates and employers. We are accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS); a testament to our commitment to excellence. We submitted our accreditation self-study in April 2025 and will host NAACLS site visitors this fall as part of our reaccreditation process.

Thanks to grant funding, we recently equipped our teaching lab with a chemistry analyzer and a 3D printer. These state-of-the-art tools offer our students hands-on experience with real-world technologies.

In March, faculty from both programs attended the Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC). The conference equips educators with fresh strategies and techniques to enhance the curriculum. Since then, faculty have integrated some of these new approaches and will assess their impact through upcoming student performance and course assessments.



# PROGRAM REVIEWS, SELF-STUDIES, AND SITE VISITS

PCCUA is up to date on all program reviews, and all reports have been approved by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE).

Program Site Visits for Fall 2025:

September 18, 2025 Adult Education Open House for Marianna Center-New Location

October 7-9, 2025 ADN (ACEN Accreditation) PN (ASBN documentation)

October 20-21, 2025

Medical Lab Technology (NAACLES Accreditation) Phlebotomy (NAACLES Accreditation)

Programs with external accreditation are not required to submit a separate review but the documentation of the accreditation must be submitted to ADHE.

PCCUA KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS									
INDICATOR/YEAR	2016-	2017-	2018-	2019-	2020-	2021-	2022-	2023-	2024-
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ENROLLMENT (FALL)									
FT	648	621	610	591	459	492	441	483	448
PT	1101	1015	912	949	633	797	793	873	755
Total	1748	1636	1522	1540	1092	1289	1234	1356	1203
CREDIT HOURS									
SSCH	14,753	13,673	13,392	13,287	9732	10,798	10512	11352	10304
FTE	983.5	911.5	892.8	885.8	648.8	720	701	756.8	686.9
TIME TO DEGREE									
100%	35%	28%	31%	32%	35%	38%	2026	2027	2028
Completion (2 Yr)	33/0	20/0	31/0	32/0	33/0	30/0	2020	2027	2020
150%	46%	41%	39%	46%	52%	55%	2026	2027	2028
Completion (3 Yr)									
200%	57%	47%	48%	60%	60%	2026	2027	2028	2029
Completion (4 Yr)	3770	4770	40/0	0070	0070	2020	2021	2020	2023
Retention	59%	58%	52%	47%	67%	76%	81%	66%	2026
AWARDS									
CPs	241	213	273	286	241	191	273	256	289
TCs	46	74	90	67	105	57	34	93	133
Degrees	125	128	133	122	106	108	128	112	122
<b>Total Awards</b>	412	415	496	475	452	356	435	461	544
Note: Based on 2025 IPEDS Data and PCC counts submitted to ADHE									



HLC Comprehensive Self-Study and Site Visit April 27-28, 2026

### The Assurance Argument and Federal Compliance Report

Many of you have contributed to developing the Assurance Argument and compiling data for the Federal Compliance Report demonstrating how PCCUA meets specific HLC criteria related to our policies, procedures, and practices.

#### The Comprehensive Site Visit

The site visit is schedule for April 27-28, 2026. PCCUA will host an HLC Peer Review Team that will meet with the institution's leadership, faculty, staff, students, and the campus communities.

### **Your Role in Preparation**

This fall, we will be actively preparing for the visit, and your participation will be essential. Our goal is to give the HLC peer reviewers the strongest possible impression of PCCUA's quality and commitment to continuous improvement. Visit the PCCUA webpage for more information and updates.

### TITLE III/DISTANCE LEARNING: Michelle Waites

During the fourth year of TITLE III funding, progress was made in supporting student access and success through the continued purchase of equipment and software for occupational and vocational programs.

The Technology Academy, located on the Helena campus, hosted a series of faculty and student technology development workshops throughout the year. These workshops provided valuable hands-on training to enhance teaching and learning experiences. Moving forward, the Academy will continue to offer a minimum of three workshops per semester for both faculty and students.

Several new software platforms were implemented this year to streamline college operations and support institutional assessment efforts, in alignment with accreditation requirements from both HLC and ADHE.

### Class Platform :: Class

The implementation of *Class* has been completed for all online courses. This virtual classroom platform enhances online learning by integrating with Zoom and Microsoft Teams, creating a more collaborative and interactive environment for students and instructors. UA System provided faculty-based training on the platform during the Spring 2025 semester.

Simple Syllabus

Implementation of *Simple Syllabus* is currently underway. This tool will ensure consistent formatting and accessibility of course syllabi across all departments and will be available to students electronically.

Watermark Course Surveys & Assessment

Watermark Course Surveys was fully implemented Spring
2025. We are now in the process of implementing the

Watermark Assessment of Courses, with full deployment
expected by Fall 2025. These tools support continuous
improvement in teaching and learning through structured
feedback and data-driven course evaluation.

# APPLIED TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING:

## Joe St. Columbia

The Applied Technology Workforce Development division offers training across a wide range of areas, including Graphic Communications, CDL, Construction Technologies, Manufacturing, HVAC, and revisions to, Heavy Equipment Operations. These programs have seen strong student participation, with numerous completions of Certificates of Proficiency (CPs), Technical Certificates (TCs), and Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees. Notably, there has been an increase in AAS degrees awarded in Graphic Communications, Construction, and General Technologies (Manufacturing). Most notable are our CDL program and HVAC remain strong turning out dozens of (CPs) each semester.

#### APPLIED TECH / WORKFORCE: cont.

In addition to our credit programs, we are actively engaged in non-credit workforce training initiatives in partnership with Producers Rice Mill, Lennox, and Riceland, providing customized training to meet the specific needs of local industry. Customized, non-credit training is becoming a small but important growth center for our department.

Through collaborations with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, the Arkansas Office of Skills Development, and other local industry partners, we continue to offer U.S. Department of Labor-approved Apprenticeships in Advanced Manufacturing. Our Transitional Training Opportunities Program (TTOP) and Ready for Life initiative remain active, and we are working to increase participation through targeted recruitment efforts.

We continue to have several personnel changes over the past year; however, our commitment remains strong: to provide high-quality, hands-on, and practical training opportunities for all students.



#### ARTS AND SCIENCES: Dr. Carol Birth

The Division of Arts and Sciences focused its efforts this year on strengthening course offerings and access. By expanding the number of online courses offered, both full semester and fast track, the division aimed to better serve our diverse student population at all locations. Professional development offered by the college guided some of the improvements to provide quality instruction and interaction in all online courses.

Instructors within the division, including General Education, Behavioral Health, Criminal Justice and Early Childhood Education, continued the campus-wide transition to Workday, learning to use the platform to contact potential students, advise, enroll and issue grades. They also participated in new and improved processes for faculty and student evaluations.

Camille Gardner, a recent graduate of UAPB graduate program in mathematics, was hired to teach elementary algebra, college algebra, and other math courses in Arkansas County as well as online. In Phillips County, Vickie Gregory took over direction of the STAR Lab and instruction of developmental reading and writing. Arts and Sciences also welcomed Coaches Anthony McDonald and Sammie Johnson, who, in addition to leading the men's and women's basketball teams, will teach several courses. In July, longtime biological sciences instructor Lisa Scaife retired.

# **BUSINESS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS:** Kayla Holland

The Division of Business and Information Systems has experienced significant growth and progress over the past year.

We celebrated the retirement of Mrs. Kathy Dulaney, who dedicated 17 years to college. In her place, we welcomed Mrs. Cristy Alsup as our new Administrative Assistant on July 1. Additionally, Ms. Lauren Corder joined the division as a full-time instructor on the Helena campus, and long-time adjunct Cindy Grove has officially retired.

We streamlined our digital resource distribution by shifting Cengage and McGraw Hill access code distribution to the bookstore, easing the process for both students and faculty. We also invested in additional Sphero Ball Mats to support hands-on learning in our coding and robotics courses.



Our team is actively preparing the ACBSP Quality Assurance (QA) Report to maintain excellence in our business programs. In October 2024, we participated in the ArkACRAO College Fair to promote our programs and engage with prospective students statewide.

Cosmetology added new teaching tools and salon models using Carl Perkins funding to create a more realistic classroom experience. Students organized a Christmas community service project and plan to continue this initiative. A new admissions process requiring an application, reference letters, and an interview has been implemented to better prepare incoming students.

Charlotte Purdy is leading the development of a National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education (NSF ATE) grant proposal focused on integrating cybersecurity into Advanced Manufacturing. She has also hosted AI workshops and spoken on the importance of cybersecurity in today's workforce.

Faculty and staff have remained active in professional development, attending conferences such as the League for Innovation, Hi-Tec, Arkansas Community Colleges (ACC), and The Teaching Professor Conference.

Enrollment in the Information Systems program continues to grow. We are proud of our students' success, including two recent graduates, one who has completed a master's degree and another nearing completion, both working in the IT field.

We look forward to continued innovation, instructional excellence, and student success in the year ahead.

#### **ATHLETICS: Kevin Arnold**

As it enters year two, Phillips Community College's athletics program continues its resurgence as they wrapped up last year's probationary basketball season. Academically, both women's and men's basketball teams maintained above



3.0 GPAs, with one graduate from the Men's team being awarded two associate degrees. At the community level, PCCUA Athletics hosted multiple high school basketball events, participated in Read Across America Week by going to schools across the county and reading to students, coached youth basketball at the Boys and Girls Club, and facilitated youth and team camps over the summer to engage local athletes and schools.

As for the upcoming 2025-2026 season, both men's and women's teams look to make an instant impact on the conference. With added players from multiple states, the Ridge Runners men's team is primed to improve upon their record, winning 50% of their games in the probationary year, and beating the defending national champions. The women's team, while having an incomplete first year, are back stronger than ever with a new head coach and a full roster. Both teams have the potential to go far in the post-season tournaments, with ambitions of competing at the national level.

#### **GEAR UP: Tomisha Gant**

The purpose of GEAR UP is to increase postsecondary access and success for GEAR UP students in our partner districts. The GEAR UP cohort (Class of 2024) completed their first year of college. They achieved a college entry rate of 57.3%, an increase from the 48.2% target outlined in the original proposal. Director Tomisha Gant and Assistant Director Carolyn Holloway worked tirelessly on the grant objectives and focused on exposing student to more opportunities. The high school dropout rate declined to 2.1% showing improvement compared to the 3.14% goal stated in the grant objectives. During the 23-24 school year, 28% of students completed at least one for-credit financial course above the minimum ACT 480 requirement from 2017, an increase from the 20% target in the grant objectives. This year, students were able to attend several campus visits across Arkansas and Mississippi, participate in STEM Days, and attend enrichment activities that highlighted various career fields.

