



## **2011-12 Strategic Plan Highlights**

### **STUDENT ACCESS & SUCCESS**

**Enhance campus-wide efforts to increase student success, with a focus on well-defined student learning outcomes and retention.**

Progress to Date:

- Currently developing a student learning outcome exam to be administered to students in 12/13 and working to add Learning Outcomes from the Association of American Colleges & Universities which were adopted by the Faculty Senate in Fall 2010.
- The Essential Learning Outcomes from the Association of American Colleges and Universities are being used for general education assessment.
- The 4th annual Assessment Festival focused on LEAP goals (Essential Learning Outcomes)
- Each academic department has developed and implemented a faculty mentoring plan.
- An Honors Program has been developed and implemented.
- Two new baccalaureate programs (History and Psychology) have been approved by the Board of Trustees and are at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education for approval.
- The PNC Civil Engineering baccalaureate degree proposal is under review by the School of Civil Engineering in West Lafayette.
- PNC has partnered with local school corporations to provide opportunities for concurrently enrolled high school students to complete their first year of college in high school and graduate from college in three years.
- Online enrollment has grown to a record high. Fourteen percent of all credits earned at PNC are via distance courses in spring semester 2012, an increase of 3 percentage points from fall 2011. Online courses promote progress toward the degree and degree completion.
- Developing Online Course (DOC) grants have been implemented to support faculty in building new online courses.
- Mechanical Engineering had its first ABET accreditation, with a very positive review.
- The Higher Learning Commission reaccredited PNC for ten years. The team and report were very complimentary about PNC.
- Through the Office of Learning & Technology, concerted efforts have been made to update faculty on the use of technology and Blackboard in their courses. Regular workshops have been routinely offered.

**Establish a calendar committee to coordinate all efforts among enrollment areas in order to strengthen communication and messaging to students and parents.**

Progress to Date:

- Established an Enrollment Management Committee with representation from all areas within the University structure to develop short-term strategies and tactics to meet immediate enrollment goals.
- Established an Enrollment Management Forum to share information across all areas and levels within the university and gain feedback and input on current initiatives.
- Established Financial Literacy Programs to educate students about financial aid and long term financial planning.
- Implementation of a degree audit system (DegreeWorks) to provide students a roadmap of their progress toward their degree.

**Develop programs to expand and to make student experiences as rewarding as possible.**

Progress to Date:

- In Spring 2012 we are adding the Academic Allies Mentoring Project for Veterans
- Restructured Student Convocation to include all students versus just new students for Fall 2012. The formal convocation ceremony will be on the first day of classes and will also include week long activities involving students, faculty and staff.
- Spring 2012, implemented mandatory first-year experience course for all beginning students who enroll for Fall 2012. Over 20 sections have been scheduled for the Fall 2012 term.

**Add additional full-time, tenure-track faculty to bring the total number to 150; decrease the growing reliance on part-time lecturers.**

Progress to Date (IPEDS data):

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Number of Faculty	110	109	112	113	116
Number of Part-time Faculty	175	173	197	200	165

**COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION**

**Develop and sustain campus-wide communications systems.**

Progress to Date:

- In 2011, the *MyPNC* portal went through a major upgrade, in both hardware infrastructure and end-user interface. All major campus stakeholders (Enrollment Management, Academic Affairs, Administration, Faculty, Students) were consulted and integrated into the upgrade process.
- The Panther News Network, a student-run electronic news source is available online through the PNC website at <http://www.pncactivities.com/>. It also broadcasts all PNC sporting events live.
- A campus-wide, strategic-level IT Governance structure was developed by a committee with representation from across all major administrative areas and the Faculty Senate. The new structure was implemented at the beginning of 2012.

**Develop a heightened responsiveness to student needs, including security and safety needs.**

Progress to Date:

- The student/staff emergency text messaging service is being well utilized by students. As of 1-13-12, there are 6,456 registered users of the student/staff emergency text messaging system. (This total includes current PNC students and many former PNC students as well, and represents a 15% increase over last year at this same time.)
- The student tutoring service expanded in 2010-2011 by 39.5% over the prior year and 72.4% over two years prior. In 2011-2012, a new feature involves presentations in selected classes to encourage program use.
- The Office of Learning and Technology has designed Blackboard tutorials to facilitate student navigation and use of Blackboard so that students can be better prepared for online course experiences.

**Acquaint members of the campus and regional communities with programs and activities.**

Progress to Date:

- PNC remains a regular participant in various local fairs and other activities.
- PNC has a representative on nearly every major board or organization in LaPorte, Porter, and Starke counties.
- Lakeshore Public Broadcasting in Merrillville regularly features PNC faculty and staff on its programming.
- Digital signage is placed strategically around campus to distribute information to the PNC community.
- The PNC Office of Career Development hosted three New Professional Nights for Communication majors, students in the College of Engineering & Technology, and College of Business students. The nights brought employers to campus to meet with students regarding job qualifications, career readiness and more.

**Develop systems to communicate externally with alumni, other institutions of higher education, primary and secondary educators, counselors and potential students.**

Progress to Date:

- The PNC Experience is a tour allowing high school students to experience the life of a PNC student for a day. Prospective students tour the campus, visit a college class, have lunch, and meet with an academic advisor and an admissions counselor. In four years, over 300 area high school students have participated.

**Develop relationships with area schools, institutions of higher education (e.g. articulation agreements) and businesses.**

Progress to Date:

- PNC, primarily through the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Science, now has expanded the university's Concurrent Credit Program with contractual agreements to provide college level course work to over 2,400 (as of spring 2012) high school students in northwest Indiana.
- The Center for Service Learning and Leadership was selected to participate in the Indiana Campus Compact AmeriCorps Service Engagement Corps (SE Corps) program for the 2011-2012 academic year. This program is a partnership between Purdue University North Central, Indiana Campus Compact and the State of Indiana's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives designed to engage Indiana college students in a year of AmeriCorps service.

- Additionally, PNC was also selected to participate in the Indiana Campus Compact Interfaith Service Corps (IFS Corps) program for the 2011-2012 academic year.
- Purdue University North Central, in partnership with the Valparaiso International Center presented "Building Bridges, 2011: Celebrating the Interfaith Ideal" on April 9 and 10, 2011 at PNC - Porter County in Valparaiso.

**Coordinate international experiences and global learning opportunities on the PNC campus for the benefit of students, faculty, staff, alumni and the greater community.**

Progress to Date:

- The College of Business MBA capstone course now incorporates a consultancy in Great Britain. In 2011, several students made the trip to Great Britain.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**Establish a centralized role for PNC in regional economic development (ED).**

Progress to Date:

- Starting in Spring 2011, economists from the Center for Economic Development and Research (CEDaR) and PNC's College of Business began a collaboration with multiple regional institutions and various organizations in an effort to provide a benchmark measurement for economic activity within a seven county area of Northwest Indiana. The collaboration, the first such wide-spread collaborative effort involving the various higher educational institutions and other organizations, resulted in the creation of a new economic advisory group named the Regional Council of Economic Advisors (RCEA). The members of RCEA gathered information and data which culminated in a report and presentation that would allow for a better understanding of the region's economy, the importance of certain sectors and industries as well as the labor force. The results of the effort were presented during a half day summit held on November 2, 2011 at Valparaiso University with over 200 persons in attendance representing the seven counties. Efforts are currently underway to make the summit an annual event.
- In April 2011, PNC became the first Indiana institution of higher education to have a Born Learning Trail installed on its campus. The Nancy Dworkin Born Learning Trail is a Northwest Indiana United Way Success by 6 initiative and offers an interactive and educational way to help parents, care givers and community members support early childhood development and learning for all children and support strong community partnerships.

## **RESOURCES**

**Construct a student services and activities complex.**

Progress to date:

- Legislative approval has been obtained for both design and construction. The state authorized \$1,000,000 for architectural and engineering services related to design as part of the 2007 – 2009 biennial budget. Included in the 2009-2011 biennial budget was authorization for \$23,700,000 in state support for construction.
- Based on these authorizations, Purdue North Central hired an architectural firm and proceeded with programming and initial design work. Design development is now complete, but unfortunately the funds approved have not yet been appropriated and released by the governor and the budget agency. Remaining design work will not be completed and the project cannot

commence until the necessary funds are released. The opening date of August 2013 originally anticipated will not be met.

**Improve the appearance and functionality of classrooms and laboratories, through intentional use of design elements, including updating appropriate classrooms to “smart” rooms.**

Progress to date:

- New lab equipment and furniture was purchased for several science labs as a result of President Cordova’s matching grant combined with reserve funds from PNC. The refurbished labs are now better suited for instruction and the investment will help until the new Science Building can be constructed.

**Match available resources to meet job needs (e.g., office space, classroom space and equipment).**

Progress to date:

- A former Media Services area was renovated and converted to a general purpose classroom adding 32 student work stations to the campus’ instructional capacity; a former staff training room was reassigned and converted into a general purpose classroom adding an additional 25 student work stations to the campus’ instructional capacity; a former waiting room on the first floor of Schwarz Hall was renovated to create four new assignable offices for support staff.
- University administration has reserved a portion of all current and future student fees to bridge long-standing deficiencies in academic supply and expense budgets.

**Provide facilities in Porter County to support the recruitment and retention of students.**

Progress to date:

- The number of class sections offered at this location declined over the past academic year. The Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management is currently working with faculty and academic administrators to identify program offerings specific to this location.

**Increase and maximize fund raising efforts to support facilities, scholarships and other initiatives.**

Progress to date:

- A capital campaign for the new Student Services and Activities Building is currently in the “silent phase” and lead gifts exceeding \$2,000,000 have been pledged. The campus will move into the public phase of the campaign when more is known about the release of state funds for the project.
- The Development Office was restructured in 2011 and a staff member added to assist with grant writing, corporate relations and internal giving.
- Development staff worked with deans and academic department chairs to identify needs and prepare related program statements resulting in an “Adopt a Lab” initiative that will be ready to kick off in summer of 2012.

**Construct science-laboratory building.**

Progress to date:

- The new science building will house the College of Science with its associated departments of Biology, Chemistry, Nursing, Mathematics, Statistics and Physics. The new science building was included in Purdue University’s Capital Request during the current biennial cycle and was submitted to the Indiana Commission of Higher Education for consideration.