

Pittsburgh Technical College

PTC Magic - Envisioning A Path to Excellence

State of the College Address

September 20, 2019

From Then to Now and from Now to Wow

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Today, we launch anew

Together we take the best of what we know

And build on it

As we put words to the PTC Magic

We also put words to our direction,

Our path forward

We today,

Begin the creation

Of a path forward

As we envision the future

Crafted by our design

We seek not perfection

But excellence

In each action, each policy, each system that impacts our
community

Our students at the core

Providing the momentum
To move
But more than that,
We examine in the work we have done
And we look for ways to do it better
PTC Magic will help define and give meaning to our work
We know the essence of the PTC Magic
Is the experiences and feelings that we generate
and
We know outcomes,
We know integrity and excellence
Must lead the way.
As we envision a path to excellence
We are challenged to define it
Through the continuous improvement
Of every component of our college
Every person, every department has a role
Today we will set course on redefining
Our way forward
Through clear and cogent examinations
Harnessing the very best of what was
Based on its application to where we are and hope to be
The long patch of road stretched on forever,

Oh, if the road could speak
Telling the tales of its travelers
Seeking renewal
The rain cleansed the weather-beaten paths and ushered
In a new day for passage
Just barely over the horizon, a glimpse of forever
Long road traveled collapsing invisibly as time passed
Forgetting not those who traveled, struggling for new beginnings
and
Renewal in times of uncertainty

Good morning, I wrote this opening passage because I thought it would set the tone as we embrace the excitement of new beginnings and define a new path forward, through this my first state of the College Address as President of Pittsburgh Technical College.

This state of the college address hopes to define the renewal of Pittsburgh Technical College, having come as the poem states, over a long patch of road; that appeared to stretch on forever to this place of re-examination as we together will envision of a new path, a new road, and a new beginning.

Today, we launch anew

Together we take the best of what we know

I am calling this state of the college address: Simply - From Then to Now and from Now to Wow as we envision a future by our design. So today, I invite you to dream with me as we look back in celebration and forward with anticipation.

It's incredibly important to recognize and celebrate the past and the work that went into getting Pittsburgh Technical College to where we are now and for us to celebrate each and every milestone.

So today, should be a day of excitement and celebration and a launch to the future.

As you can see from this slide a lot has happened to position us for our next bold steps forward.

This slide is a powerful virtual of change and of a dynamic organization finding its way.

Now with nine colleges and more than 30 programs. We have grown from a career school - for profit model to a non-profit, regionally accredited higher education institution.

This transition brings with it a series of very important changes that will impact the quality of our overall operations as a result of more robust accreditation and accountability standards, resulting in changes in our policies, systems, our infrastructure.

Pittsburgh Technical College has changed and will continue to change to meet the growing demands of higher education. I am confident that we are ready and able to meet these changes head on.

I want to really look at this slide and see the continued evolution of PTC and celebrate this progression. Please give yourselves and PTC a round of applause.

Now is our time to define our way forward as we move to the next phase of our growth and evolution.

As we put words to the PTC Magic

We also put words to our direction,

Our path forward

We today,
Begin the creation of a path forward
A path defined by excellence

Our path forward will gain momentum from our past successes but will require to move with greater urgency towards excellence in our every action.

What do these changes mean for each of us? It will mean that we are approaching our work with greater intentionality. They we each are strategic in our approaches and decisions and that we are patient with ourselves as we advance through each stage.

Our attitude towards change will make a difference. I encourage you to see change as an opportunity to improve for the greater good, our students, our community, each other.

It is important to recognize that **excellence not perfection** is our goal, and this will require an honest examination and commitment by each of us to make PTC an even greater place to learn.

As we continue, our efforts to our financial health will determine how quickly we can respond.

Over the next few years, we will be expanding our endowment, which rest now at slightly over 600.000 and will be formally establishing a Foundation to assist us with raising funds for the institution.

As we continue to stabilize our budgets we will also begin to strategically develop a strategy for building reserves.

I am pleased to share that our financial health is good and improving. Our 2019 4th Quarter delivered positive financial results. Specifically, the outstanding performance in July was the best July since 2011.

We have met or exceeded all our quarterly financial targets and goals for the last two quarters and will exceed this quarter!!!!

Our commitment and focus on the \$3MM challenge, the work of our taskforces and the outcomes we are achieving are phenomenal and I am so proud of the work that is being done.

We will continue to examine ways to become more efficient in our management of resources, in our policy development and in the development of strategies.

PTC Magic will help define and give meaning to our work

We know outcomes,

We know integrity We know excellence

Must lead the way.

Now what? What is next as we envision a future by our design? To achieve the future we design, we must have a vision, define our priorities and be clear on where we are going.

I introduced these three priorities to you on August 1st and again at our last staff meeting.

These priorities serve as our guideposts, as arrows pointing the way. Each priority will require a set of actions and each priority will support our continued growth and sustainability.

1. As an educator of choice, we will be known for the quality of our curriculum, level of preparation and excellence in our practices. At the core of this priority is excellence.
2. As a pipeline for middle skills jobs, we will be current and relevant in our curriculum and engaged with the needs of our

region and PTC will be a direct source for filling the most in demand and wage competitive middle skills jobs. At the core of this priority is excellence.

3. As we continue to fuel economic development in our region and beyond and support auxiliary revenue generation, we will develop strategies to provide high quality workforce development and training. At the core of this priority is excellence.

I shared the what. It's important to also determine how. These are the strategic directions and will form the focus of the strategy teams working on the formulation of our next five-year strategic plan: PTC Magic – A Path to Excellence.

Each strategic direction will have specific objectives, measurements, timeline and accountability identified. For example, as we look at expanding access, this strategy team will identify the best opportunities for expanding access and develop strategies for making this happen, i.e. expand online offerings, increase the number of veterans, expand evening and weekend opportunities.

As we look for ways to further enable the success of our students, this strategy team will explore opportunities to improve student success and completion. Possible, implementation of early alert systems, supplemental instruction, soft skills implementation, mentoring and other retention strategies.

Strategic Direction Three will explore curriculum, articulations, labor market, and advisory board's feedback to generate strategies to assure a positive outcome.

Strategic Direction Four will review and evaluate current partnerships and make strategic recommendations for elevating our standing and quality in this area.

Enhancing Financial Sustainability and Stewardship will be the focus of Strategic Direction Five and will also explore strategies to expand auxiliary resources among other opportunities.

Strategic Direction 6 will focus on strategies to improve our culture and examine and recommend policy changes among other opportunities. The strategy teams will be interdisciplinary and work within their strategic direction or strategy team but can also make a recommendation to other teams.

I am so proud to introduce to you new strategy team who help breath life into our strategic plan.

I would like to have our strategy team to please stand and join me in giving them a big round of applause.

We will be coordinating a formal launch for our planning efforts next month and so its not to late to sign up and bring you big ideas. Our teams will also be meeting today, I encourage you to attend a strategy session to learn more.

There is a lot of wow for us to celebrate today.

Join me in recognizing our innovators in technology, innovation and efficiencies.

For Technology we have:

Powerfaids – Financial Aid/IT (Terri Barger, Fred Taggart, and Chris Colson)

Website Redesign – Marketing (Kimberly Norris and Rebecca Kondos)

Great Plains Upgrade – Bookstore and IT Teams

For Innovation we have:

Flip Grid Video Discussion Board – Business Faculty (Jennifer Waldo)

Glidely – Interdepartmental Project with CAD, CP, EL, HVAC, and WEL
faculty and students

And for efficiencies we have:

Restructured budget process to a bottom-up system (Connie Vancamp)

Restructured Business program layouts to optimize faculty:student ratios
and create an annual course offering calendar (Shelley Zollner)

On the count of three, let's say...WOW!

Join me also in celebrating some exemplary outcomes which are nothing short of WOW.

I would like our Nursing department to stand and be recognized for the exemplary outcomes with our NCLEX Pass rates of 100% for PN and 90.5% for ASN.

I would also like to have our Career Services Team stand and be recognized for their continued excellence in helping us achieve an in-field placement rate for our graduates of 96%.

And last and certainly not least join me in saluting the excellent performance of our Admissions team that delivered the best July start since 2019. 21% growth over the previous year.

On the count of three, let's say...WOW!

Our Path Forward is not about perfection. It is about excellence about doing the very best we can everyday to improve Pittsburgh Technical College for the students we serve.

As we envision a path to excellence
We are challenged to define it
Through the continuous improvement
Of every component of our college
Every person, every department has a role
Today we will set course on redefining
Our way forward

There is much work to do and together, we will do it. We will dream and plan together. As the rain cleansed the weather-beaten paths of our yesterdays, it has also ushered in a new day for passage for each of us and for each of the students that we serve.

We will not move forward if only some of us look forward, while others are looking back.

Together, we must, identify barriers and develop appropriate strategies to overcome them and we must continue to look and move forward towards a path of excellence that lies before us.

I invite you today to explore all the nuances of excellence and the role that you will play, the work required, the new thinking needed to embrace excellence in all that we do. I encourage your excitement, passion, optimism, creativity and determination.

I will continue to listen, to explore and to encourage each of you to raise the standard every day.

We will plan as a college, discuss the difficult issues as a college and we will respond as a college. My decisions will always be guided by what is in the best interest of our students.

So, join me, as we embark upon this worthy and noble work of transformation and “Disturb the Universe” as the PTC Magic – leads the way to envisioning a path to excellence.

Long road traveled collapsing invisibly as time passed
Forgetting not those who traveled,
Struggling for new beginnings, a renewal, a way forward and
envisioning a path to excellence.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing your insights.