A. Learning Environment for Student Success:

Advance our learning-centered culture, promoting student success in an atmosphere of respect, professionalism, and high academic standards.

A1. Promote a climate that fosters creativity and innovation to enhance teaching, learning, and assessment.

A1.1
- Developed an A.A.S. degree in Industrial Maintenance and purchased $230,000 of mechatronics equipment with support from an Illinois Network for Advanced Manufacturing (INAM) grant.
- Developed a plan to modernize our Networking and Web Applications programs and develop a Mobile Applications certificate. Courses are mapped to industry certification standards and will be delivered in a virtual cloud platform.
- Strengthened our partnership with ArcelorMittal Steel and collaborated on the "Steelworker for the Future" program and on new degree and certificate programs.

Related Accomplishments:
- Received the Accelerating Opportunities Grant to facilitate student transition into the manufacturing industry.
- Earned "entitled status" for our Early Childhood Program; graduates are now credentialed to teach or direct early childhood programs across Illinois.

A1.3
- Created Hawkes mastery courses for students in Math 90, 95 and 101.
- Developed a Mobile Math Lab and purchased 34 laptop computers to give students access to Hawkes software in their classrooms.
- Offered a new Summer Bridge Program in math and English funded by the PBI STEM grant.
- Organized a Summer Science Camp for rising high school seniors funded through the PBI STEM grant.
- Developed two new nursing courses, two electrical courses, and an innovative non-lab "Physics and Society" course.
- Purchased an OB/GYN newborn hi-fidelity simulator to enhance nursing education.

A1.6
- Partnered with the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance to offer an earth week presentation on jobs in energy efficiency.

A1.7
- Expanded the Learning Communities Program to include targeted COL101 (College Success) courses for special populations including African American Males, Veterans, and majors in a variety of disciplines.

A1.8
- Opened a new Writing Center on campus that uses inquiry-based pedagogy to help students become better writers.

A1.11
- Installed smart room technology in two of the Adult Training and Outreach Center classrooms.

A2. Attract quality faculty who embrace student-centered learning.

A2.1 Related Accomplishments:
- Developed new programs to support the orientation and acculturation of adjunct faculty.
- Arranged pre-term department meetings to enhance adjuncts' sense of belonging and to discuss department priorities.

A2 Related Accomplishments:
- Attracted more than 200 applicants for our full-time English positions; evaluated applicants' teaching demonstrations in order to hire faculty committed to fostering active learning.
- Hired six new full-time faculty members in humanities, sociology, reading, physics, nursing, and surgical technology, bringing new talent and perspectives to these programs.

A3. Encourage the hiring of faculty and staff who reflect the diversity of the students.

A3 Related Accomplishments:
- Hired a Latina sociologist, a Chinese physicist, and African American faculty in nursing and English. Also recruited and hired diverse adjunct faculty.

B. Targeted Recruitment, Improved Retention, and Increased Educational Attainment:
Improve recruitment of targeted student populations and strengthen academic performance, retention, and completion.

B1. Strengthen college-wide efforts to recruit targeted populations.

B1.3
- Published athletic department news, photos and game/contest recaps on Facebook.
- Implemented targeted direct mail enrollment strategies.

B1 Related Accomplishments:
- Offered a one-day Fire Science Technology camp for students interested in exploring a career in Fire Science.
- Offered a new COL102 for the Early College STEM students to help them explore careers in those disciplines and recruit them to PSC science programs.
- Expanded the number of continuing professional education credits offered by applying for and receiving continuing education unit licenses for Certified Workforce Development Professionals, HR Certification Institute, Continuing Legal Education, and Certifying Board of Dietary Managers.
- Created and distributed the "Corporate Express" corporate education newsletter to local companies.
- As part of the Calumet Green Manufacturing Partnership Grant, recruited and provided training for students leading to multiple nationally recognized National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) Certifications.
- Revamped the Male Success Initiative to focus on the retention of male students of color.
- Targeted various student populations for the "Steelworker for the Future" program, including students majoring in industrial electricity, manufacturing technology and other A.A.S. degrees.

B2. Establish a systematic, evidence-based approach to improve student retention and completion.

B2.2
- Purchased Retention Alert software and developed an implementation schedule.
- Refined script of online new student orientation and began design phase.
- Established new graduation audit practices to better reflect common practice at other community colleges and to improve the transparency of how to meet A.A. and A.S. requirements.
- Piloted degree audit and conducted training sessions for advising staff on the use and functionality of degree audit, the transfer course equivalencies form, and access to previously completed evaluations for use when advising students regarding degree completion.
- Implemented a peer-led-team-learning program to support STEM students.
- Increased nursing student retention by 20% by implementing a new action plan to help at-risk students.
- Planned a new First-Year Seminar designed to enhance students' transition from high school to college and conducted initial pilot in fall 2013.
- Piloted new versions of developmental English courses to assess their effectiveness.
- Helped students prepare for final exams by hosting a multi-day event in the PSC library to encourage academic preparedness, create a social learning environment, and promote a sense of community pride and purpose among students.

- Formulated a late registration process to inform the campus community of deadlines and expectations related to students enrolling after the start of a course.
- Identified and published a list of all transfer elective courses for A.A. or A.S. degrees.
- Hosted a seminar by the Hines VA Hospital on the topic of student veterans that enlightened counselors of the challenges facing student veterans and the proper interventions to use.
- Implemented a student-focused suicide prevention program to increase awareness of mental health issues.
- Expanded student programming during Alcohol Awareness Week.

B2.4
- Added a new video on completing the FAFSA to the website.
- Provided timely communication to students regarding changes to the Monetary Award Program deadline.
- Conducted workshops to educate students on financial aid, topics included: "Retain Your Financial Aid, Guidelines to Remain Eligible" and "I finished my FAFSA, Now What's Next?"
- Partnered with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) to conduct College Goal Sunday which offered a FAFSA Completion Workshop to members of the community.
- Hosted more than 18 sessions aimed at assisting students in completing their FAFSA for the 2013/14 award year.

B2.5
- Participated in the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference STEM competition, a recent addition to the Skyway co-curricular academic events.
- Installed trophy cases in the atrium to showcase student achievements in athletics, speech, Skyway events, leadership, and charitable work to increase awareness of and participation in student activities.
- Started a new Honors Society for high-achieving psychology majors.

B2.8
- Established the Student Leadership Center is a resource for student volunteer opportunities and expanded volunteer database to include internal and external volunteer opportunities.

Related Accomplishments:
- Identified students who completed degree requirements but had not petitioned for graduation and awarded degrees.
- Created specialized communications to alert students of pending de-registration and allow time to explore payment options and/or modify registration activity.
- Emailed monthly financial aid tips to the campus community and provided financial aid updates to students and employees regarding various topics, including recent changes in regulations that could impact a student's ability to receive federal funds.
- Planned and facilitated National TRiO Day focusing on community service. Over 350 participants of TRiO programs in northern Illinois participated.
- Connected TRiO/SSS program participants to student clubs and organization on campus to facilitate participation in community service projects and engagement outside the classroom.
- Purchased eCheckup To Go, an online self-assessment tool designed to reduce marijuana and alcohol use among students.
- Expanded the Pioneer Peer Educator program through student training and national certification as peer educators. The peer educators made presentations to their peers and COL 101 courses on alcohol awareness.
- Worked on assessment projects in nursing, English, communication and many other disciplines; also evaluated our Learning Communities Program and Service Learning Program in social sciences.

B3. Develop effective pathways for English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) and Adult Basic Education (ABE) students to move from non-credit into credit programs.

B3.1 • Developed and offered a Bridge to Healthcare Careers course for advanced level ESL students.

C. Effective and Accountable Resource Management:
Ensure the effective use of human, financial, technological, and physical resources.

C1. Collect, analyze, and use data to implement best practices and measure progress in all areas of administration and resource management.

C1.1 • Created a customized student profile download tool to facilitate extracting validated data from Datatel.
  • Created an interactive student course enrollment and grade distribution dashboard.

C1.2 • Developed and executed a new participative, robust, and data-informed strategic planning process that resulted in the creation of the PSC's 2013-17 Strategic Plan.
  • Established the Planning and Quality Improvement Committee, charged with monitoring progress toward completion of strategic plan goals, developing key performance indicators, and supporting quality and continuous improvement on campus.
  • Developed several nursing department program surveys to solicit feedback from current students, recent graduates, and employers, in order to inform continuous program improvement.
  • Created a data request form to track requests, maintain accountability in data management, and achieve efficiency in data analysis.

C1.4 • Acquired Business Objects reporting tool and ICCB report templates.

C1.8 Related Accomplishments:
  • Achieved bronze level recognition under Illinois Governor's Campus Sustainability Compact.
  • Receive a free electric vehicle charging station through a special manufacturer program.
  • Received grants through the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN) to maintain a sustainability center and to install an energy dashboard in the Health Tech Center.
  • Received a recycling grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.
  • Automated overnight desktop computer power down.

C1.9 • Established a Threat Assessment Team to address concerns about students who may pose a threat to themselves and/or others.

C1 Related Accomplishment:
  • Implemented "local debt recovery" through the Illinois Comptroller's office, reducing the amount of uncollected debt and write-offs.

C2. Expand and improve professional development for employees to meet institutional goals.

C2.1 • Implemented professional development accountability measures for educators in Adult Education.

C2.2 Related Accomplishments:
  • Provided faculty development workshops designed to improve teaching and learning.
  • Promoted "shared inquiry" and discovery-based learning as best practices and supported them through faculty development and their use in the Writing Center.

D. Strong Community Partnerships:
Enhance current and develop new strategic partnerships.

D1. Develop a comprehensive approach for establishing, maintaining, and strengthening mutually beneficial partnerships.

D1.1 • Strengthened the relationship with feeder schools Bloom and Bloom Trail by offering monthly college readiness workshops and encouraged qualified seniors to take advantage of the free class offered at PSC.
   • Received a Closing the Gap Grant from ICCB that supports using the new Common Core standards to enhance college readiness and articulation between high school and college.
   • Worked with the high schools participating in the Early College Initiative (ECI) to help them enhance the college readiness of students who did not qualify for that program.

D1.2 • Expanded the Early College Initiative (ECI) to include Bloom Township District 200 and broadened its selection of courses to include a variety of general education courses. This brings the number of high schools participating in ECI to four.

D1.3 • Finalized articulations with the University of Illinois at Springfield for computer science, political science, and social work majors.

D1 Related Accomplishments:
   • Successfully implemented the first year of the multi-year TRIO/Talent Search grant of $230,000 annually servicing 500 first generation/ low income students from districts 170 and 206.

D2. Collaborate with community partners on grant opportunities and other innovative ways to share resources.

D2.1 • Hosted the 2nd annual SMHEC student sustainability summit.

D2.2 • Partnered with Carbon Day Automotive and Phillips Chevrolet to host "Plugged In" a community event on electric vehicles.
   • Partnered with SouthStar Services' EcoSafe Processors to recycle PSC obsolete computers.

D2 Related Accomplishments:
   • Established partnership with Jewel/Osco Pharmacy, Heartland Alliance, and Brothers Health Collective to provide students with free health-related services including flu shots, glucose screenings, rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing.
   • Partnered with Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) to provide ISO 9000 training to Trialco.
   • Developed a partnership with Chicago Jobs Council to offer workshops on campus to individuals seeking Frontline Focus Training Institute (FFTI) job developer certification.
   • Partnered with the Construction Safety Council to offer an OSHA training program in Spanish.
   • Implemented the "Innovative Exam" kiosk within the Illinois WorkNet Center Resource Room.
   • Enrolled 15 Illinois WorkNet Center clients into the CGMP/OAI NIMS Certificate program.
   • Offered a series of free energy demand reduction trainings to local businesses and community members; PSC was among a handful of colleges selected by IGEN to receive a grant and partner with Met Demand for this training.
   • Expanded the Southland Partnership that supports approximately 40 students who are majoring in health studies and need financial assistance.
   • Sponsored a One Book/One Community Program through the PSC library using *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* as the common reading. Ten district libraries participated, and more than 250 community members attended faculty lectures on campus or at local libraries.

E. Advances in Technology:

Expand and improve the application and effective use of technology across the College.

E1. Maintain the institutional commitment to implementing the goals of the Information Technology Strategic Plan:

- E1.1   Related Accomplishments:
  - Implemented IMMUNETRAX, a student health records database that secures health information for nursing students. Students will have a life-long membership.
- E1.3 • Upgraded Storage Area Network (SAN) device for increased storage and improved performance.
- E1.4 • Upgraded to most current release of Desire 2 Learn to take advantage of new features and functionality.
- E1.6 • Installed and supported implementation of new Web Content Management System for PSC website.

E2. Promote a climate of innovation in using technologies that enhance student success and administrative effectiveness.

- E2.1 • Upgraded to Unified Messaging that links voice mail messages to email.
  - Complete Main campus roll out of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP).
  - Implemented Electronic Book Vouchers linking bookstore purchases directly to student financial aid.
  - Implemented an electronic system that allows students to schedule an appointment with a Financial Aid loan officer on the PSC website.
- E2   Related Accomplishments:
  - Updated computer lab equipment at the Matteson Area Center to MS 2010 to accommodate our students and local area stakeholders in the workforce.
  - Opened a Simple Scan Station in the PSC library to help students who lacked access to a fax machine or scanner to send documents to email, Google docs, USB, or phones.