

# THE RIVER IS RISING

## REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2022



PEARL RIVER  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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# ROAR WITH THE BEST



**Candace Harper**, Vice President  
*Enrollment Management & Business Services*

## OUR SUCCESS...

We understand a student's journey is unique to them and we strive to do better every day because their success is our success.

—Candace Harper

Hello Wildcat Family and Friends,

What a great year it has already been for PRCC as we kicked off our fall semester with record-breaking enrollment numbers! For the first time in PRCC's history, we have hit historic enrollment while outpacing the state average. Our employees continue to break down barriers, remove roadblocks that hinder our students' success, and find creative ways to recruit, engage, and retain students. From the first encounter a student has with an employee or recruiter, their first visit to campus, all the way to their eventual return as alumni, every stage is equally important. Our success is only as good as each member of our team, and it is evident by our performance that every employee at PRCC takes great pride in providing an excellent service environment and experience for our students.

Our faculty are the best in the state, always finding new opportunities to enhance learning and our staff excel at creating new and innovative ways to move students along their journey. At PRCC we understand a student's journey is unique to them and we strive to do better every day because their success is our

success. We continue to improve processes, listen to feedback, and become more efficient. We want our students' voices to be heard and their feedback keeps us moving in the right direction.

I encourage you to find a PRCC employee to high-five, pat on the back, or just say "thank you." Often we work in the trenches with each other but don't take the time to celebrate how far we have come. Hearing words of appreciation from our community, alumni, students, and each other makes a big difference. PRCC made history with enrollment while outpacing the state average, and that is something to be extremely proud of!

Let's continue to work together as a Wildcat Family as our students **ROAR with the Best!**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Candace Harper".



Click the image to watch interview.

## DR. BREERWOOD REFLECTS ON PRCC SUCCESS AND RECORD-BREAKING ENROLLMENT

Pearl River Community College continues to set records with enrollment at an all-time high at a time when many higher education institutions continue to lose students.

PRCC President Dr. Adam Breerwood took the time to chat with Director of Marketing and Recruitment Kari Eve Valence about how PRCC is bucking the trends seen by other higher education institutions.

PRCC has seen 15% growth since 2016 while the state saw a drop of 14.5% and the national headcount dropped by 16.4%.

A key component is the exceptional work of the faculty and staff, something that Dr. Breerwood is incredibly grateful to have.

*The future is bright!*



**Wildcat  
Radio Show**



Hosted by Chuck Abadie  
with guest Kari Eve Valence

Click the image to hear broadcast.



# ROAR WITH THE BEST

WHERE YOU ARE THE **MAIN CHARACTER**

**VISIT PRCC.EDU**

Click [here](#) to learn about PRCC and how you can **ROAR with the BEST!**

# PEARL RIVER HITS HISTORIC ENROLLMENT WHILE OUTPACING THE STATE AVERAGE



Pearl River Community College is continuing to set records with enrollment at an all-time high at a time when many higher education institutions continue to lose students. The school has also maintained its position as the 4th largest community college in Mississippi for the third consecutive semester.

The 10th Day Report arrived with news of the record-setting enrollment of 5,501 students for the fall semester. There has been a 15% growth in enrollment from 2016 to 2022 while the state average saw a drop of 14.5% and the national average headcount dropped by 16.4%.

The continued growth at The River can be tied to the college administration's goal of making higher education affordable, accessible, and efficient.

"We are honored that so many students continue to choose Pearl River Community College to begin their educational journey," said PRCC President Dr. Adam Breerwood. "We've put a lot of strategies in place that would hopefully not only allow students to begin at Pearl River but ultimately stay on track to completion."

[Click here for the full article](#)

## TWO DYNAMIC DEPARTMENTS JOIN FORCES AT PEARL RIVER

Two key Pearl River Community College departments have teamed up to promote affordable, accessible, and efficient educational opportunities for future Wildcats.

While the offices have worked hand in hand for many years, the Office of Marketing and Communications and the Office of Recruitment have officially merged into one department.

[Click here for the full article.](#)

## PRCC TAKES MORE STEPS TO MAKE EDUCATION AFFORDABLE



Finding ways to make higher education affordable and accessible is a cornerstone of Pearl River Community College's mission. One way the college is assisting students is through Nelnet payment plans that help cover the balance left after all financial aid and scholarships are applied to the account.

[Click here for the full article.](#)

# PEARL RIVER LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE FOCUSING ON USER ACCESSIBILITY



Pearl River Community College is taking the need for stellar online functionality to heart with the launch of a new website. The new website has improved the user experience while showcasing all that The River has to offer.

Visitors will find a completely different layout to the previous one in this new and improved version. All information is placed into main pillars based on the audience with sections including: About the College, Academics, Future Wildcats, Current Wildcats, Life at The River, and PRCC Athletics. Even subpages such as Class Schedules have a crisp new look that is easier to navigate.

[Click here for the full article.](#)

## PRCC IMPLEMENTS NEW EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Pearl River Community College kicked off the start of an exciting recognition program called “Outstanding PRCC Employee.” The first awardee, Lonnie Burchell, was announced during Professional Development Days prior to the start of the fall semester.

The new program is designed to allow anyone—co-workers, students, community members—to recognize a PRCC employee that goes above and beyond in their duties. It was created by the Office of Internal Processes, run by Amanda Brumfield and Hannah Miller, and was made a reality with the support of Senior Vice President for Instruction/Provost, Dr. Martha Lou Smith.

[Click here for the full article.](#)



NOMINATE AN  
**Outstanding**  
 PRCC EMPLOYEE

# PRCC: 2022 LPN TO ADN NURSING GRADUATES



LPN to ADN  
Bridge  
Program  
Graduates

August 4, 2022



Ten students are the first graduates of the 2022 Pearl River Community College Evening LPN (Practical Nursing) to ADN (Associate Degree of Nursing) Bridge program at the Forrest County Campus.

They are from left: First row – Andrea Norris of Taylorsville and Elizabeth Smith of Sontag. Second row – Marquita Rhymes of Hattiesburg and Laurin Graves of Collins. Third row – Heather Douglass of Purvis and Jade Sutherland of Purvis. Fourth row – Hilary Smith of Petal and Carrie Welborn of Petal. Top row – Jon Shelton of Laurel and Tiffany Sandifer of Petal.

[Click here for the full article.](#)

# COURT REPORTERS GRADUATE FROM INAUGURAL PRCC PROGRAM



Five newly-trained stenographic court reporters graduated from Pearl River Community College's inaugural program.

The graduates are Jessie "Morgan" Ponder Anglin of Mount Olive, Candace Cooley of Waynesboro, Amanda Barnes Hernandez of Eatonville, Felicia Jackson of Hattiesburg and Alicia Miller of Magee.

[Click here for full article.](#)

# DR. RAYMUNDA BARNES NAMED VICE PRESIDENT OF HANCOCK CAMPUS

Dr. Raymunda  
Barnes

Vice President  
Hancock Campus



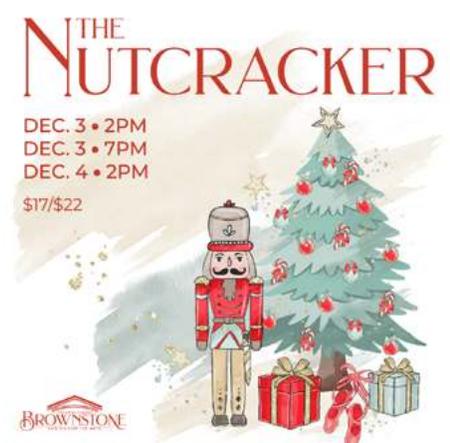
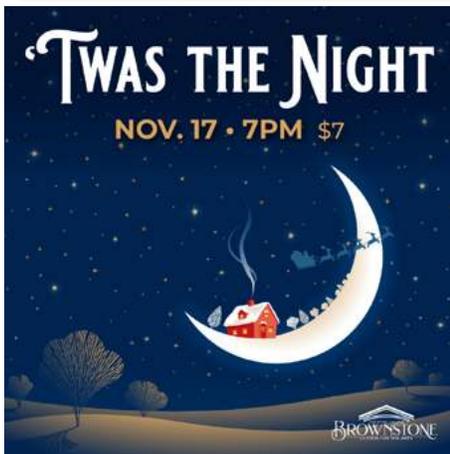
A devoted Pearl River Community College family member and active Hancock County community member has moved into an exciting new role at The River.

Since coming to PRCC 15 years ago, Dr. Raymunda Barnes has held several roles including Lead Instructor, Campus Dean, and Assistant Vice President of Hancock Campus. He has moved into the role of Vice President of Hancock Campus.

[Click here for full article.](#)

THE ETHEL HOLDEN  
**BROWNSTONE**  
 CENTER FOR THE ARTS

2022 FALL EVENTS



BROWNSTONE  
**BACKSTAGE**

For nearly a decade, the Ethel Holden Brownstone Center has served as a beacon for the arts in south Mississippi. Thousands of students have performed on the stage and tens of thousands of individuals have enjoyed events ranging from local dance recitals to headliner performances from well-known artists.

Brownstone Backstage is an initiative empowering individuals to offer support for the performing arts in their community. By joining the Brownstone Backstage you help our students create the best possible performances in the area. You help maintain the beauty and elegance of the facility, and help to attract artists from all over to come and perform on the Brownstone stage.

No gift is too small, and donations are completely tax deductible. Through automatic monthly drafts you can easily choose the contribution amount you prefer. As the proverb says, "Many hands make light work," and together with the generosity of individuals like you we will keep the Brownstone Center mission to offer world-class entertainment for the community going strong for decades to come.

**Join the Brownstone Backstage today!**

SCAN ME



Buy tickets online,  
 over the phone, or in-person!

[BROWNSTONECENTER.COM](http://BROWNSTONECENTER.COM)

601.403.1180

Moody Hall, Office 214  
 101 Highway 11 North  
 Poplarville, MS 39470

# PEARL RIVER HONORS PRACTICAL NURSING SUMMER 2022 CLASS



**H**undreds of family members and friends came to support their loved ones as Pearl River Community College recognized 55 Practical Nursing graduates at a pinning ceremony held at The Ethel Holden Brownstone Center for the Arts. The afternoon was a time of celebration for all while recognizing the hard work each of the students put in during the past year.

[Click here for full article.](#)

## ONE OF WILDCAT'S FINEST STUDENTS MAKES HIS WAY BACK TO PRCC AS INSTRUCTOR

**P**earl River Community College instructor Said D. Otwane made the journey back to his alma mater, who recently hired him to begin teaching Coding Technology this fall at the Forrest County Campus.

PRCC gave Otwane, 24, a firm foundation for a teaching career, and this former Jack Kent Cooke (JKC) Foundation Transfer Scholarship recipient who graduated from PRCC (2018) with special honors, and later from Columbia University in New York (2020), meets his first class of students this week.

[Click here for the full article.](#)





## SECOND HALF GOALS PROPEL NO. 5 PEARL RIVER PAST ITAWAMBA

In its first action of the 2022 season, the No. 5 Pearl River men's soccer team used a pair of second half goals to propel itself to a 2-1 victory over Itawamba on Friday. The Wildcats held possession for much of the first half but struck on the counterattack in the second half.

"I think that we played okay. The lack of games that we've been able to play with all of the weather and cancellations has definitely taken a toll on fitness," Pearl River coach Drew Gallant said. "With all of the sprinting and running that we do in soccer, it's really hard to simulate that in any kind of practice.

"We did a good job of capitalizing in the second half. We are threatening on the counter. We have so much speed and size up top. When we get into counter situations, it creates good opportunities."

[Click here for full article.](#)

#ROARWITHTHEBEST

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

PRCCATHLETICS.COM/TICKETS

HANCOCK WHITNEY

WILDCATS

15

## PRCC'S SLATER LOTT NAMED ABCA ASSISTANT COACH OF THE YEAR



The awards are still coming in for the Pearl River baseball team after its National Championship season. The American Baseball Coaches Association recently named Wildcat hitting coach and recruiting coordinator, Slater Lott, the NJCAA DII Assistant Coach of the Year.

[Click here for full article.](#)

## PRCC EARNS NO. 14 RANKING AHEAD OF BATTLE WITH NO. 4 NORTHWEST

On September 8, the Pearl River football team proved that it can win pretty or it can win ugly, defeating Northeast 20-13 to move to 2-0 for the first time since 2014.

The Wildcats were rewarded for their unblemished start Monday, climbing into the NJCAA rankings at No. 14. Monday's good news marks the first time since '14 that the 'Cats were ranked.

"We've known that this was the vision, but we've just had to be patient," Pearl River coach Seth Smith said. "These kids have persevered, and our coaches have persevered. It's rewarding. There are still 1,000 things that we need to get better at, but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel."

[Click here for full article.](#)



# PRCC WATER DRIVE FOR JACKSON



Jeff Long, Vice President of Poplarville Campus and Student Services, and Brad Ladner, Instructor of Construction Equipment Operation, loaded and delivered the water bottles donated to support residents of Jackson. They were met by a representative of the city at the Metro Center Mall in west Jackson.

Thanks to Ramey's Marketplace, PRCC Faculty & Staff, the PRCC Foundation & Alumni Services, and community members for their generous donations to make this possible.

## CHAPEL HART *Watch Party!*



Click the image to watch.

# Outstanding

PRCC EMPLOYEE

**AUGUST 2022**

Latissa Dorsett



*Click the image to play video.*

## PRCC EMPLOYEES NOMINATED IN AUGUST FOR THE OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE AWARD

Sabrina Brown

David Bunch

Bridget Cahill

Michelle Campbell

Dr. Glenn Dale

Latissa Dorsett

Beverly Durham

Eileen Hall

Charlie Jordan

Dr. Eric Leatherwood

Anna Morgan-Standberry

Stephany Pearson

Wayne Peters

Jimmy Dale Polion

Jason Ramshur

Julie Ray

Shannon Rojas

James Rouse

Jarib Castillo Salcedo

Jaelyn Smith

Maghan Smith

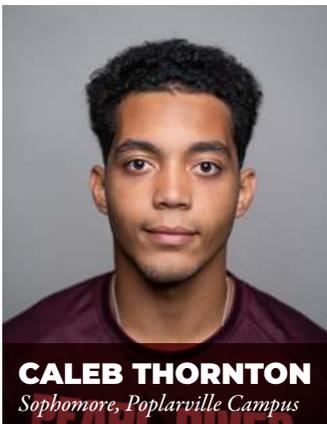
Amy Stevens

Reginald Townsend

Mike Travis

Gloria Wasmund

Frankie Wise



**CALEB THORNTON**  
*Sophomore, Poplarville Campus*

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Caleb graduated from Sumrall Highschool and is majoring in health science with a minor in therapeutic science. He currently serves as the President of the Student Government Association, as Vice President of Planning for Phi Theta Kappa Iota Mu Chapter, and as a Sophomore Representative for the Dr. William Lewis Honors Institute.

"I chose PRCC because of my scholarship opportunities and advisement from my high school teachers. PRCC is special to me because of the people I have met on my journey, and the relationships I was able to build and maintain with my peers and alumni."



6th Annual



# WILDCAT WONDERLAND

## BUSINESS EXPOSURE OPPORTUNITIES

NOVEMBER 17 • 5-7:30 PM



### TIER ONE \$250

- Logo placement on PRCC Wildcat Wonderland marketing materials as a supporter.
- Basic logo placement on a corrugated plastic yard sign, size 24" wide x 18" high on the main strip of PRCC's Poplarville Campus for the Wildcat Wonderland drive thru Christmas display (exposure over 3,000+ individuals based off previous data)
- Social media announcement of sponsorship to our combined social media followers over 35,000 members

### TIER TWO \$500

- **Receive all benefits of Tier One, plus:**
- 1/2 page business ad in the January/February alumni edition of the River is Rising Report publication

### TIER THREE \$1,000

- **Receive all benefits of Tier One, plus:**
- Social media announcement of sponsorship to our combined social media followers over 35,000 members
- Large logo placement on 2.5'x6' vinyl banner (replaces the yard sign in tiers 1 & 2)
- Boosted social media announcement of sponsorship
- Full page business ad in the January/February alumni edition of the River is Rising Report publication

*To take advantage of exposing your company to thousands of people this holiday season, email [dharris@prcc.edu](mailto:dharris@prcc.edu) for more details!*



**PEARL RIVER**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Poplarville Campus**

101 Highway 11 North  
Poplarville, Miss. 39470

**Forrest County Campus**

5448 Highway 49 South  
Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401

**Hancock Campus**

454 Highway 90, Suite D  
Waveland, Miss. 39576

[www.prcc.edu](http://www.prcc.edu)

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