

April 18, 2014

Dear Colleagues:

I am so excited about the future of our college, and hence I am sending this letter to share some thoughts.

For the last year and a half, most of you have toiled with me to take our college to new heights, and together we have succeeded. We had some rough going, and it is by no means over yet, but in getting our SACS candidacy we have crossed the threshold of being recognized as worthy of respect and credence as an institution of higher learning. We are on equal footing with other two- and four-year institutions in Alabama and the nation. Already, universities from this region who know about our efforts and accomplishments have begun to invite us to sit at the table and share thoughts on how we may join hands to provide seamless opportunities for future students.

But, honestly, I am concerned. When we are this close to winning the grand prize, my stomach is churning, lest accreditation by SACSCOC this year becomes elusive. I know I don't want it to slip away from us. Having come so far, I want to do everything possible to help make it happen for our students and this community, and I am urging each of you to do the same. We have some real work ahead of us for the next several weeks and months, and I am hoping you are fully prepared for it.

Over and above meeting SACSCOC Comprehensive Standards, I am aspiring for us to leave an impression with the visitation team that Trenholm State is a caring community of diverse people working together to not only build bright futures for their students but also to provide them with learning support and resources for their unique needs -- not only for school but also for life. I know our talented, experienced faculty and highly skilled staff work hard every day to help our students reach their educational goals, but our challenge is to demonstrate to the visitation team members through our documentation and supporting evidence that really is so. I would like the team members to experience first-hand that our faculty and staff are accessible and committed to giving a challenging educational experience so that students can begin their path to success and are globally aware individuals, engaged citizens, skilled workers and lifelong learners.

We are fortunate to live in a vibrant community like Montgomery-- one of the best and well-known cities in the nation, an area rich with economic activity, corporate headquarters, community organizations, and global presence. We know we enjoy full support of our local businesses and industries in all we do every day, but our challenge is to fully involve our community partners to give our students adequate opportunities to connect with the world and hone their skills for lifetime success.

When we have done our utmost best for our students and community, Trenholm State will be worthy of designation as a comprehensive community technical college. I am counting on you to help us get there. I need you to be fully engaged with me in helping make these aspirations a reality.

And remember, my office door is always open.

Sincerely,



Sam Munnerlyn  
President

*"If everything seems under control, you're just not going fast enough." – Mario Andretti*