

**TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE
THROUGH INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE**
OFFICIAL INAGUARATION ADDRESS
ALICIA B. HARVEY-SMITH, PH.D.

GREETINGS,

CHAIR BETLYN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS. **TODAY HAS BEEN TRULY OVERWHELMING** AND I THANK YOU.

IT IS WITH **INCREDIBLE GRATITUDE THAT I STAND BEFORE** YOU AS THE 4TH PRESIDENT OF PITTSBURGH TECHNICAL COLLEGE, A COLLEGE WITH A SOLID LEGACY OF DELIVERING RESULTS.

THIS IS TRULY ONE OF THOSE 1-2-3 – WOW MOMENTS THAT WE OFTEN SAY IN RECOGNITION OF VERY SPECIAL MOMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS ON OUR CAMPUS.

ACTUALLY, I COULD NOT THINK OF A MORE FITTING WAY TO EXPRESS HOW I FEEL AT THIS MOMENT ABOUT PTC AND THE FUTURE OF OUR COLLEGE.

SO, PTC, IF YOU WOULD HUMOR ME, LET'S SAY IT TOGETHER AND I INVITE OUR GUESTS TO JOIN US. AT THE COUNT OF THREE – WOW, ARE YOU READY, HERE WE GO, 1-2-3 – WOW! THAT WAS WONDERFUL, PROVING ONCE AGAIN THAT THE PTC MAGIC IS REAL!

TODAY IS A DAY OF IMMENSE PRIDE FOR PTC! WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR **FACULTY, STAFF, AND MOST OF ALL OUR STUDENTS.**

WE ARE PROUD THAT **100% OF OUR STUDENTS ENGAGE** IN INTERNSHIPS, CLINICALS AND CAPSTONE EXPERIENCES.

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE A **93% IN-FIELD PLACEMENT RATE**, AND A STUDENT RETENTION RATE ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

DURING THIS - OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY, WE ARE PROUD THAT **75% OF OUR GRADUATING STUDENTS REMAIN** IN PITTSBURGH AND THE SURROUNDING REGION AND THAT **2/3^{RDS} OF OUR 2015 - 2020 GRADUATES CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN \$89 MILLION** TO THE ECONOMY.

YES, THERE IS MUCH TO CELEBRATE, AND I AM SO PROUD TO SERVE AS PTC'S PRESIDENT TO HELP WRITE ITS NEXT CHAPTER.

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I **AM PRIVILEGED** TO HAVE MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, SORORS, AND COLLEAGUES FROM MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, MICHIGAN, GEORGIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, NEW JERSEY, OHIO, WEST VIRGINIA, AND TEXAS IN ATTENDANCE TODAY, AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL PANHELLENIC COUNCIL - THE DIVINE NINE HISTORIC - AFRICAN AMERICAN FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES.

I ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK MY **AMAZING HUSBAND** MAJOR DONALD SMITH, **WHO I LOVINGLY REFER TO AS** MY CO-PRESIDENT, WHO HAS FOR 38 YEARS, BEEN MY CONSTANT INSPIRATION AND CHEERLEADER. I AM SO HONORED TO BE YOUR WIFE AND THAT WE HAVE EMBRACED THIS **GREAT ADVENTURE TOGETHER!**

I KNOW THAT MY PARENTS ARE VERY MUCH HERE IN SPIRIT. BECAUSE I AM WHO I AM, BECAUSE OF THEM AND MY SUCCESS IS DUE **IN NO SMALL PART, TO THEM AND MANY OTHERS ON WHOSE SHOULDERS I STAND.**

TODAY, I AM HONORED TO SALUTE EACH OF THE PAST PRESIDENTS AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT. THANK YOU FOR POSITIONING PITTSBURGH TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOR ITS NEXT PHASE. **IT IS ON THAT FOUNDATION THAT WE WILL BUILD.**

I PLEDGE TO CONTINUE PTC'S EVOLUTION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE **BOARD, ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI, AND THE CURRENT AND FUTURE STUDENTS THAT WE WILL SERVE,** AS WELL AS THE MANY **COLLABORATORS** WHO EMBRACE THE TRANSFORMATIONAL POWER OF EDUCATION.

TODAY, WE HONOR **OUR PAST** AS WE MOVE **BOLDLY** TOWARDS THE FUTURE WITH **(PIP) PURPOSE, INTENTION, AND PASSION** AS WE **TRANSFORM THE FUTURE THROUGH INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE.**

TO ALL THE SPEAKERS TODAY, **THANK YOU!** MERE WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS MY DEEP AND SINCERE APPRECIATION TO YOU. **YOUR WORDS AND SUPPORT WILL CONTINUE TO LIFT ME** LONG AFTER TODAY'S CEREMONY AND WHEN I NEED IT MOST.

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I WANT TO ESPECIALLY THANK **THE INAUGURATION COMMITTEE**, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. EILEEN STEFFAN, CHRISTINE IOLI, AND BRENDA PSOTKA.

THIS COMMITTEE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO CREATE A SIMPLY PERFECT INAUGURATION WEEK, PUBLIC INSTALLATION, AND GALA.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS HISTORIC DAY IN THE JOURNEY OF OUR INSTITUTION **INCREDIBLY SPECIAL**.

TO THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY, I AM TRULY **HONORED TO BE YOUR PRESIDENT**.

BECAUSE, AT PTC, WE ARE COMMITTED TO ENVISIONING A FUTURE BY OUR DESIGN THROUGH **INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE** AND BRINGING THAT VISION TO LIFE.

SO MUCH SO THAT **EXCELLENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY** ARE TWO OF OUR SIX CORE VALUES.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION, INTEGRITY, AND A COMMITMENT TO BEING LEARNER-CENTERED, ARE ALSO PTC VALUES, BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT THESE VALUES CAN NOT ONLY **SHAPE A COMMUNITY** BUT **CAN MAKE A COMMUNITY**.

THROUGH **INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE**, WE WILL STRATEGICALLY MEET THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF THE STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

PITTSBURGH TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS COMMITTED TO CREATING THE TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATIONAL, CORPORATE, AND PHILAN-THROPIC PARTNERSHIPS **REQUIRED TO EXPAND ACCESS** TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND FUEL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

WE ARE EXCITED TO SUPPORT THE CRITICAL WORK OF **MAYOR GAINEY** AND ALL POLITICAL AND LEGISLATIVE LEADERS SEEKING NEW AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES IN OUR ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL ECO-SYSTEMS. **PITTSBURGH TECHNICAL COLLEGE** IS POISED AND READY TO HELP.

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WE ARE EXCITED TO SERVE AS A **LAUNCHING PAD TO DREAMS** THAT PREPARE THE CITIZENS OF **PITTSBURGH** AND ALL STUDENTS FOR COMPETITIVE CAREERS IN MORE THAN THIRTY PROGRAMS ACROSS OUR 10 ACADEMIC SCHOOLS, INCLUDING A **WORLD CLASS SCHOOL OF TRADES!**

WHETHER, IN CORPORATE TRAINING, IT – CYBERSECURITY – HEALTH-CARE – CRIMINAL JUSTICE – BUSINESS - WELDING OR OTHER IN DEMAND OCCUPATIONS, PTC WILL ASSIST IN STRENGTHENING THE WORKFORCE WITHIN THE **COMMONWEALTH.**

PTC LOOKS FORWARD TO **BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER** THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, BUILDING COMMUNITY AND EXPANDING EARLY-COLLEGE EXPERIENCES SUCH AS THE HEALTH CARE PATHWAYS, IMPLEMENTED WITH THE WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OR EXPANDING ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS WITH SENIOR INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE NEW FAST-TRACK MBA DEGREE IMPLEMENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY, OR THE NEW ROBOTICS ARTICULATION BEING FINALIZED WITH THE CARNEGIE MELLON ROBOTICS ACADEMY.

PTC IS VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE CREATION OF **EDUCATIONAL MODELS, SUPPORTING THE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

NINE MONTHS **AFTER ARRIVING AT PTC**, OUR NATION AND THE WORLD WERE CONFRONTED WITH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, CHANGING FOREVER, THE EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE.

BUT IT DID NOT STOP US. WE DID NOT PAUSE, AND WITH **INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE**, WE KEPT MOVING DELIBERATELY FORWARD DELIVERING ON SCHEDULE, OUR **FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN** TO OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR APPROVAL, **AND THAT VERY PLAN IS ILLUMINATING OUR PATH FORWARD.**

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DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, WE RESCHEDULED THIS INSTALLATION TWICE, **AND I DO BELIEVE THAT WAITING HAS PROVIDED US EVEN MORE TO BE GRATEFUL FOR AND TO CELEBRATE.**

WE TOOK THIS **TIME TO EXAMINE AND REIMAGINE** EVERY FACET OF OUR INSTITUTION AND HAVE WORKED TO CRAFT AND RESHAPE THE COLLEGE IN SIGNIFICANT WAYS TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCIES, STUDENT, AND OPERATING SYSTEMS AND TO BETTER POSITION PTC FOR **OUR FUTURE.**

WE REIMAGINED THE ENTIRETY OF OUR OPERATIONS TO ASSURE THAT STUDENTS RECEIVE **THE VERY BEST EXPERIENCE, THE PTC MAGIC EXPERIENCE!**

AND WE CONTINUED WORKING AND TELLING OUR AMAZING STORY OF TRANSFORMATION.

TRANSFORMING FROM PTI AS AN ESOP TO PTC

TRANSFORMING FROM FOR PROFIT TO NON-PROFIT

TRANSFORMING FROM ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE-PROGRAMS ONLY TO ALSO AWARDING **BACHELOR'S DEGREES**

WE CONTINUED FORWARD, BUILDING THE BRIDGE WHILE CROSSING, FOCUSED INNOVATIVELY ON CHANGE AND OUR FUTURE.

DURING THIS TIME, WE BEGAN EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH THE FIRST PTC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, ESTABLISHED AN OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, AND RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT GRANT SUPPORT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR COLLEGE'S HISTORY. **THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AS A PRIVATE COLLEGE RECEIVING NO STATE FUNDS.**

GRANT AWARDS INCLUDED THE CARL T. PERKINS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION GRANT AND THREE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANTS, RESULTING IN THE EXPANSION OF OUR WORK IN STEM AND CYBERSECURITY AND OPENING A STATE-OF-THE-ART MECHANICAL FABRICATION LAB.

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DURING THIS TIME, WE LAUNCHED THE COLLEGE'S FIRST DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION TASKFORCE AND HIRED OUR FIRST CHIEF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION OFFICER.

DURING THIS TIME, WE OPENED THE COLLEGE'S FIRST HEALTH AND WELLNESS AND FITNESS CENTERS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS AND THE SPONSORSHIP OF TRUSTEE EMERITUS MICHAEL YURISIC AND FAMILY.

DURING THIS TIME AND DUE TO THE GENEROSITY OF THE CITRONE 33 FOUNDATION, WE HIRED THE COLLEGE'S INAUGURAL DEAN OF COUNSELING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANDED PTC'S MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES.

DURING THIS TIME, WE LAUNCHED THE COLLEGE'S FIRST CORPORATE COLLEGE AND THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL, BRINGING REGIONAL LEADERS TOGETHER TO DISCUSS POST PANDEMIC SOLUTIONS.

AND DURING THIS TIME, US NEWS & WORLD REPORT SELECTED PTC AS A BEST REGIONAL COLLEGE AND THE PITTSBURGH TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL AWARDED PTC AND ITS PRESIDENT INNOVATOR AND CEO OF THE YEAR.

WE HAVE MUCH TO CELEBRATE, AND WITH **INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE**, PTC WILL EMERGE FROM THE PANDEMIC, A STRONGER MORE VIBRANT INSTITUTION **AS WE PREPARE STUDENTS, SUPPORT FACULTY, DEVELOP LEADERS AND ALIGN WITH THE GROWING AND DIVERSE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY.**

THE PTC MAGIC IS TAKING HOLD AND SOON WE WILL BE INTRODUCING A NEW MEMBER TO OUR FAMILY, THE PTC MASCOT – COMING SOON!

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN AND DIRECTIONS ARE FRAMING GREATER STUDENT AND OPERATIONAL SUCCESS, CURRICULUM ADVANCEMENTS, NEW PUBLIC, AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, AND YES, A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

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WE ARE POISED FOR IMPACT AS WE DISTINGUISH OUR INSTITUTION AS A **DESTINATION**. BECAUSE WE WILL ALWAYS KEEP OUR STUDENTS AT THE CORE OF OUR THINKING AND DELIVER TO THEM AND OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS, A HIGHER STANDARD OF EDUCATION.

IN CLOSING,

AS A COMMITTED COMMUNITY THROUGH **COLLECTIVE EFFICACY**, I AM CONVINCED THAT THERE ARE NO CHALLENGES BEFORE US, THAT WE CANNOT OVERCOME THROUGH INTELLIGENT REFLECTION, EFFECTIVE PLANNING, BOLD AND DECISIVE ACTIONS, AND COMPASSION!

AND SO,

IT IS WITH IMMENSE JOY, EXCITEMENT, AND HOPE THAT I MAINTAIN THE LEADERSHIP OF PITTSBURGH TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

AN INSTITUTION WHOSE TIME HAS COME TO SERVE ITS STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY IN *NEW, GREATER, AND MORE INNOVATIVE* WAYS.

THROUGH *INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE*, PTC WILL LEAD AND TRANSFORM THE FUTURE, BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE TO ACCESS THE TRANSFORMATIONAL POWER OF EDUCATION.

THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE AND WE WILL DO IT, TOGETHER! THANK YOU, GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU AND NOW - ON TO THE NEXT CHAPTER!