They came from Halifax, Northampton, and Hertford counties…hailed from Weldon, Roanoke Rapids, Littleton, Seaboard, Gaston, Jackson, Woodland, Enfield, Hollister, Conway, and Rich Square; they were curriculum, diploma, certificate, 12 in 6, and GED bridge students, sporting crew cuts, waves, dreads, and braids; they arranged in ages from 18 to 50—each independent yet different. All had at least one commonality—they were P.R.I.D.E.—adventurous, eclectic, eccentric, dressed to impress, and curious.

They sought knowledge, information, and culture, in a district that made history by swearing-in the nation’s first ever African American President-Chief of state, according to Daniel J. Lovett, Director of the program.

“It was fascinating to see our men step out of their comfort zones in search of life-altering experiences—and they found them” Lovett reports. Amidst nearly 10,000 attendees, they met African American leaders, activists, politicians, writers, speakers, educators, lawyers, college presidents, doctors, Judges, and CEOs. Even though they did not get a peak at President Obama, they met familiares: Emmitt Smith, Roland Martin, Mark L. Hill, Jesse Jackson, Sr., Cornell West, Lisa Raye, Kim Whitley, Susan Taylor, Al Sharpton, George Clinton, Steve Francis, and others. Then, there were the interviews: Joseph Henry, III (JC) was selected among thousands to be interviewed by a popular Washington, DC and Detroit syndicated columnist. Dr. Griffin and another group of P.R.I.D.E. men were interviewed as a segment of a “Saggy Pants” video dialogue posted on You Tube. “These were just a few of the opportunities our men gained because of access and opportunity” Dr. Griffin, HCC President believes that the men learned a lot from this possibly once in a lifetime experience. They encountered never before chartered waters, conducted themselves like men, and gained memories for a lifetime.

PRIDE is one of those programs that can create life-altering moments. They will no doubt grow personally, and professionally.

PRIDE at the Congressional Black Congress

P.R.I.D.E. Receives National Recognition by the 2009 Community College Survey of Student Engagement

P.R.I.D.E. has been recognized as a Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) MetLife Foundation on Student Success Best-Practice College and is featured in the 2009 CCSSE National Report Making Connections: Dimensions of Student Engagement. HCC is one of two community colleges to earn the distinction. Making Connections focuses on institutions that intentionally foster positive relationships among students, faculty, staff, and institutions themselves: how they evolve, the value they add, and the importance of building and sustaining connections.

According to President Griffin, “this is an amazing accomplishment for a program in existence for less than one year”. Further, he states “while we are happy with this accomplishment, we believe that with more time and work, we can create a national minority student success prototype worthy of modeling and duplication”. We are committed to increasing academic performance, retention, and graduation rates.
A Message From the Director —Thank You for Embracing US...

On January 2, 2009, the HCC Freedom To Learn Initiative began its transformation from concept to reality. This evolution began with operationalizing essential components, branding, advertising, marketing, writing every HCC male, and full HCC incorporation. In January 2010, we will celebrate our one year anniversary and thanks to you P.R.I.D.E. has become an integral part of the HCC male experience. While the process has been fun, it has also been labor intensive. Establishing a new program has plusses and minuses. Pluses include opportunities for creativity and building from ground-up ever adapting to students’ real-time needs. It is a program built for X-generationers who often require new and eclectic psychological and programmatic success strategies. Minuses include investing extensive time and energy creating and integrating/introducing a new seed into a conventional infrastructure. There are as many adversaries as supporters. Further, the old regime rejects change as intimately as the new régime embraces it. It all depends on the lens—the view and opinion by which we see and interprets what we see and what we want to see. The lens we want our guys to view the world is from a wide angle.

On behalf of P.R.I.D.E staff and students, we thank all that have invested time and energy in our efforts to produce independent, productive, and successful men.

DJL

P.R.I.D.E.

— “A sense of one’s own proper dignity, value, or self-respect”

P.R.I.D.E. Induction Ceremony

On November 5, PRIDE hosted its first annual Induction Ceremony at the Centre. The keynote speaker was Chief Judge for Judicial District 6-B, the Honorable Judge Alfred Kwasikpui. More than 100 students were inducted into the inaugural class.

“After I thought about the people who had helped me, I realized that they were my PRIDE. They prepared me academically and intellectually for the work that I was going to do,” Judge Kwasikpui added. He challenged inductees to reach out to young people and pass on the pride.

PRIDE also inducted select men into the Men of Distinction—MOD (highest recognition) and Grooming Exceptional Men

P.R.I.D.E. Introduces the Ervin V. Griffin, Sr. Leadership Forum

According to Dr. Griffin, “I did not ask for any aspect of the program to bare my insignia, however, but I am pleased that a forum focusing on critical success topics exist at HCC”.

The Griffin Leadership Forum (GLF) has sponsored 3 sessions that included popular topics on personal presentation, sagging, public perception, sexuality, drugs, crime, pregnancy, violence, and male/female relationships. One forum was dedicated to inducting men into the P.R.I.D.E. program proper, the Men of Distinction (MOD), and the Grooming Exceptional Men (GEMs) components. Thus far, attendance at the forums has been good with more than 300 participants in attendance. The Next GLF is scheduled for January (Feb) 2010 and will focus on benefits of academic, graduation, & higher education.
P.R.I.D.E. Will Provide Off Campus Internship Transportation Assistance

P.R.I.D.E. has restructured components of its grant to combat the perennial transportation challenge faced by many of its men. Arranging internships comes with its own set of challenges—namely transportation and personal confidence. Many of our guys have limited access to adequate transportation while others harbor reservations about working in professional settings. Thus, beginning Spring 2010, PRIDE will pilot a transportation program that provides pick-up and drop-off services to internship participants.

In workshops, students are given an opportunity to work throughout the HCC campus. The internship program offers opportunities on and off campus. Students receive compensation and are evaluated throughout the work cycle. Results are used to improve work effectiveness, efficiency attitude, behavior, and skill development.

P.R.I.D.E. Elects New Officers & Gets Chartered Under SGA

PRIDE has elected their first slate of officers. These include:

President: Bryan Allen  
Vice President: Michael Barber  
Secretary: Andre Anglin  
Treasurer: Fund Raising: Perry Evans  
Outreach: Terrell Boone  
Activities: Jo’mel Wade  
SGA Liaison: Berche Belton

P.R.I.D.E. has also been approved as an SGA chartered (HCC recognized) group.

P.R.I.D.E. Adds a New Math Lab & Learning Community

PRIDE has established a cooperative learning math lab to reverse low math performance, dropout, stop-out, and withdrawal rates at the college. Math performance is not meeting our expectations according to Marcus Lewis, Learning Coach. While other campuses are suffering from the same challenges, we are focused on improvement. We are focused on cooperative and active learning as one of our key strategies. The other includes staffing the lab with professional tutors who work 9am -5pm.

The math lab includes 25 personal computers, math tutorial software, cooperative learning desks, a SMART board with ELMO for tutoring and instruction, and wireless internet.

P.R.I.D.E. & HCC SGA Co-Sponsored Male-Female Forum & Other Activities

Want to know how men and women feel about each other...sponsor a male female relationship forum and you are bound to get plenty of hip hop slang, body language, street expressions, and personal reflections. Dr. Ervin Griffin and Dr. Julie Dilday, professor of psychology. Student panelist included Thomas Utley, Antwarren Lyons, Jordan Williams, Teresa Raymond, Aleisha Lloyd, and Courtney Williams, More than 120 students, faculty, and staff have attended the forum.

Other Recent P.R.I.D.E. activities include:
- Rotary Hot Cakes & Sausage Volunteers
- Charlotte Education, Careers, & Cultural Expo
- Cornell West Forum in Durham
- Fatherhood Forum in Elizabeth City
- Jobs/career forum in Washington, NC
- NC Com Coll. Male Mentoring Conference in Durham
- Minority Male Initiative Webinar
- Basketball 3 on 3 Tournament
- Christening of New P.R.I.D.E. Info Board –Cafeteria
- Received charter as an official SGA organization

P.R.I.D.E. Learning Community

P.R.I.D.E. will sponsor its first learning community (LC) during Spring 2010 to assist students with improving math performance. LCs consist of 2 or more courses joined together to improve grades, retention, and student adjustment. The P.R.I.D.E. LC includes Math 060 and a College Survival skills (ACA 085). Interested men should contact the office to enroll and increase their chances of earning top grades.

P.R.I.D.E. Professional Dress Closet

“One chance to make a first impression.” We still need “gently worn” business/business casual clothing and shoes for our men. We’ll even come by to pick them up...just call us....
When Dr. Griffin was asked during his interview for the presidency at HCC what he planned to do about the downward spiraling male population and their declining graduation rates his reply (in summary) was “given time, we will address the challenge of bringing more male students to our campus and helping them be successful.” “There is little value in bringing them in if they don't finish what they set out to achieve”. Later, Dr. Griffin travelled to Washington D.C., to learn about a new grant opportunity. When he returned, he met with Thomas Schwartz, Vice President of Institution Advancement to prepare a Request for Proposal and the rest, as they say was history.

According to Griffin, “over the past year, male enrollment has increased by 26% with approximately 43% of the growth coming from our African American male enrollment”. This speaks volumes about the comprehensive benefits of a comprehensive and focused program designed to support students, parents, educational establishments, faith organizations, businesses, etc., throughout the community.

“If we are going to make a difference, we have to help redirect them from the streets to value-added and productive settings. Our men are enrolled in college...I’d say they are in the right place at the right time” according to Schwartz. “Our efforts now include sustaining funding so that students and the community mutually support each other. We’re focused on developing a responsible, motivated, and competent workforce” Schwartz added.

According to Griffin, “I think the best is yet to come” and I expect our men as well as our key performance indicators will prove it.