

## **FY 2026: A Year in Review**

Pierpont Community & Technical College entered the 2025–2026 academic year with a focus on Mission and Momentum. Over the course of the year, that momentum became visible across the College. Pierpont strengthened institutional stability, expanded enrollment and workforce programming, achieved important student success outcomes, invested in employees and technology, deepened regional partnerships, secured new resources, and reached an important milestone in accreditation.

These accomplishments reflect more than the work of any single office, program, or individual. They represent the collective work of faculty, staff, students, the Board of Governors, the Pierpont Foundation, employers, educational partners, and community stakeholders. Together, they demonstrate a College that is increasingly stable, responsive, connected, and positioned for its next stage of growth.

### **A Year of Momentum**

FY2026 was marked by important gains in institutional stability and effectiveness. Pierpont completed presidential and provost searches, continued strengthening shared governance and institutional communication, and expanded the use of data to inform planning, accreditation, enrollment, program review, and Board decision-making.

One of the most significant accomplishments came after the close of the academic year. On June 25, 2026, the Higher Learning Commission Board of Trustees removed Pierpont from Notice and determined that the College was no longer at risk of noncompliance with the Criteria for Accreditation. This milestone affirmed considerable institutional work and represented an important moment of stability and confidence for the College.

That progress provides a strong foundation as Pierpont prepares for its Summer 2027 Assurance Argument and Fall 2027 comprehensive HLC visit.

### **Students Moving Forward**

Enrollment and student success remained central to Pierpont’s work throughout FY2026.

The College entered the fall anticipating more than 1,000 degree-seeking students for the first time since 2021 and achieved that milestone. Pierpont also exceeded its Summer 2026 enrollment goal and continued strengthening recruitment, with approximately 100 recruitment events conducted by early June.

Just as important, students continued progressing toward completion. Pierpont met its fall-to-fall and fall-to-spring retention targets and its graduation-rate improvement target.

During the academic year, Pierpont awarded 424 credentials to 281 students representing 28 West Virginia counties. Those awards included 227 associate degrees, 66 certificates, and 131 workforce skill sets.

Dual enrollment also continued its strong growth. Participation increased 30.7 percent, course enrollment increased 28.4 percent, and dual enrollment students achieved a 95.1 percent course pass rate. Seven students earned a Liberal Studies Associate of Arts degree while still in high school.

Student support continued to evolve alongside enrollment. Pierpont expanded tutoring, peer mentoring, career services, engagement activities, financial aid processes, and Registrar services. WV

Invests awards exceeded \$1.5 million during 2025–2026, more than \$160,000 above the previous year, helping reduce students’ reliance on loans.

### **Programs Designed for Students and Workforce Needs**

Pierpont continued responding to changing student and employer needs by expanding both academic and short-term workforce opportunities.

The College added or expanded training in Phlebotomy, EKG, Certified Medical Assisting, EMT-Basic, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, aviation, and information technology. It also advanced Surgical Technology and the LPN/Paramedic-to-RN Bridge pathway as part of its continuing response to regional healthcare workforce needs.

Academic Affairs achieved significant external validation of program quality. Medical Laboratory Technology received accreditation through 2036, Respiratory Care through 2031, and Veterinary Technology through 2029. The College also advanced new A.A.S. programming in Skilled Trades, the RN Bridge, and Surgical Technology.

Four major academic grants totaling approximately \$812,000 supported the RN Bridge, Surgical Technology, EMS, and Food Service Management programs. At the same time, Pierpont strengthened general education assessment and its five-year academic program review process, further connecting program decisions with evidence, student learning, and institutional effectiveness.

### **Workforce Development for Impact**

Career and Corporate Training experienced significant growth. Over a two-year period, participation increased from 113 to 217 students, an increase of 92 percent.

Pierpont also advanced more than 22 Learn & Earn partnerships spanning healthcare, aviation, utilities, construction, legal services, nonprofit organizations, tourism, and other sectors. These partnerships generated nearly \$600,000 in wage reimbursements and approximately 50 paid internships for students. More than half represented new employer relationships, demonstrating Pierpont’s growing regional reach.

Work continued on the new Aviation Maintenance Training Center, an investment that will expand Pierpont's capacity to prepare students for high-demand technical careers while supporting regional economic development.

### **Partnerships to Extend Our Reach**

Pierpont strengthened relationships throughout its service region with employers, healthcare providers, manufacturers, workforce organizations, chambers of commerce, community organizations, secondary schools, career and technical education centers, and four-year institutions.

The College met strategic objectives related to secondary education partnerships, university articulation agreements, and service opportunities with community-based organizations. This work expanded opportunities for dual enrollment, transfer, educational advancement, workforce preparation, and community engagement.

These relationships increasingly represent more than agreements. They are becoming pathways through which students enter Pierpont, gain workplace experience, continue their education, earn credentials, and move into careers.

### **Investing in our People**

Pierpont's momentum was also reflected internally.

The College ended FY2026 with an employee turnover rate of 6 percent, outperforming its goal of 10.6 percent. Employee engagement increased from approximately 71 percent to 76 percent, while measures related to communication and staff development also improved.

Professional development opportunities expanded, Pierpont Praises created another avenue for employee recognition, and new agreements with four-year university partners created reduced-tuition opportunities for employees seeking additional education.

These results matter because student success depends on institutional capacity. A College that wants students to grow, persist, and succeed must also invest in the people who serve them.

### **Technology, Infrastructure, and Effectiveness**

FY2026 included substantial improvements to Pierpont's technology and operational infrastructure.

The College expanded its Virtual Reality initiative, implemented Anthology Ally to strengthen accessibility, introduced Microsoft Entra Single Sign-On for Blackboard, and improved the Pierpont Portal. Those portal improvements reduced student login and access issues by more than 95 percent. A new Course Readiness Review process reduced course setup-related student support requests by approximately 50 percent.

Additional work included migration to Windows 11, replacement of employee and computer-lab devices, networking improvements, aviation wireless upgrades, migration to Banner Self-Service 9, and an upgraded phone system.

Institutional Effectiveness also expanded dashboards and reporting tools that connect data with accreditation, strategic planning, enrollment, retention, compliance, academic program review, and Board oversight. These investments strengthen Pierpont's ability to make decisions based on timely and consistent evidence.

### **Growing Resources and Community Support**

Pierpont continued building the resources necessary to support its mission.

The Pierpont Foundation exceeded \$1 million in annual contributions for the first time. The Foundation expanded scholarship opportunities, increased support for FAA certification scholarships, established dedicated support for the Pierpont Pantry, secured significant in-kind contributions for Aviation, and began working with a fundraising consultant in preparation for a future capital campaign.

Institutional visibility also increased. Earned media coverage was estimated to have grown by more than 50 percent year over year, increasing awareness of Pierpont's programs, people, workforce initiatives, grants, enrollment growth, and community impact.

Pierpont also strengthened financial and administrative processes through improved reconciliation, Student Accounts practices, financial communications, and coordination among Student Accounts, Financial Aid, and the Registrar. Accounts receivable decreased between FY2024 and FY2026, and collaborative intervention helped more than half of students initially dropped for nonpayment return to their summer courses.

### **From Momentum to Focus**

The significance of FY2026 is not simply that Pierpont accomplished more. It is that the College strengthened the conditions necessary for sustainable progress.

The 2024–2026 Strategic Plan organized institutional work around People, Programs, Partners, and Performance. The year-end results demonstrate meaningful progress across each of those pillars. Pierpont met objectives related to student retention, graduation improvement, career training growth, grant portfolio growth, Foundation growth, secondary education partnerships, articulation agreements, and community engagement.

As Pierpont moves into its next planning cycle, the opportunity is to connect those accomplishments even more closely around measurable institutional outcomes. The FY2026 strategic plan review identified several areas for consideration, including access and enrollment, student momentum and completion, workforce and program alignment, partnerships and community impact, and institutional sustainability and effectiveness.

### **Looking Ahead to FY 2027: Every Student Forward**

FY2026 demonstrated that Pierpont has momentum. FY2027 gives us the opportunity to focus it.

Our institutional priority for the coming year is Every Student Forward: Designing the Conditions for Persistence and Success.

This priority begins with a simple question. Are our students moving forward?

**Education that Works!**

Pierpont Community & Technical College is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Institution

Recruitment matters. Enrollment matters. New programs matter. Facilities, grants, technology, and partnerships matter. But the ultimate measure of our momentum is whether students continue moving toward the goals that brought them to Pierpont.

Our FY2027 work will place greater intentional focus on the conditions that influence persistence: onboarding and early momentum; proactive advising and student navigation; belonging and campus connection; workforce connection and career clarity; academic success and supplemental learning support; financial stability and basic-needs support; and resilience, wellness, and student well-being.

We will implement. We will measure. We will learn. And when the evidence tells us something is not working, we will adjust.

That same focus will inform strategic planning, budgeting and resource allocation, academic and workforce program decisions, technology investments, partnerships, and institutional priorities. Growth must remain intentional, mission-driven, supported by evidence, and matched with the people, facilities, technology, and student support necessary to sustain it.

Our why remains unchanged. Pierpont exists to serve students and change lives through education. Our programs, services, partnerships, facilities, and initiatives are what we do. Collaboration, innovation, and care describe how we do it. Students remain at the center of why the work matters.

FY2026 gave Pierpont much to celebrate:

- We strengthened the institution.
- We expanded opportunity.
- We built partnerships.
- We invested in people.
- We improved outcomes.
- We created momentum.

Now the work is to make certain that momentum carries our students forward. **Every Student Forward.**

Onward and upward!

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