

MCC Welcomes New President on March 1

On March 1, Dr. Paul Hutchins became the eighth president to lead MCC since 1968. He was recommended by the MCC Board of Trustees to the NCCCS (NC Community College System) State Board in December. His appointment was finalized on February 16.

Prior to joining MCC, Dr. Hutchins was the President of Sampson Community College in Clinton, NC for 6 years. Before coming to the North Carolina Community College System he worked at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida serving as the Dean of Educational Centers and Economic Development for ten years.

At Sampson CC, Dr. Hutchins led the college through reaffirmation of accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He provided leadership to enable the college to secure this fall a \$1.8 million grant from the Economic Development Administration for the construction of a new welding and metal fabrication facility on the campus. Both of the college's nursing programs have become ACEN accredited. He championed regionally a state-wide bond referendum that was passed by state voters which brought \$4.8 million to the college for capital improvements. He also implemented a crisis management team at the college to prepare for disasters and crisis situations to ensure safety for students, faculty and staff.

While working at Santa Fe College Dr. Hutchins orchestrated the development of a regional steering committee to address healthcare issues. Collaborating with two other community colleges, the University of Florida, the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce, the regional workforce board and the region's healthcare employers, the steering committee held four annual summits to present best practices and initiatives to address healthcare and healthcare education issues and job creation.

He also led Santa Fe College's efforts to secure a \$1.7 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Agency for the construction of an addition to the college's Emerging Technologies Center,



Tina and Dr. Paul Hutchins

providing lab space, classrooms and faculty office space.

Dr. Hutchins earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Florida in Education; a Master of Arts degree in Adult Education from the University of South Florida and his Doctorate of Higher Education Administration from the University of Florida.

Dr. Hutchins is a past president of the Clinton-Sampson Rotary Club and has served on the Sampson County Partnership for Children Board, The Sampson County Local Emergency Response Committee and the Sampson County U Care Board of Directors.

Dr. Hutchins and his wife Tina have two children, Autumn who lives in Austin, Texas and Drew who lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.