There is no trait that I value more than tenacity—or, as Winston Churchill said, to “never, never, never give up.” Perseverance—striving to succeed in spite of obstacles and the stubborn refusal to quit—is why I like sports so much. They can be a metaphor for life.

Last night’s football game demonstrated a tenacious will to win—I have never been prouder of our players and coaches because they showed everyone what “One Team for Student Success” means on the playing field. Although many individuals made spectacular plays last night, I know that each of them will tell you that the team produced the victory—the players and the coaches. That’s the nature of being on a team. Their resolve to win last night’s game can be a lesson for all of us.

So, let’s enjoy this win for what it was, a great sports event that showcased UNC Pembroke to a huge audience. But let’s also appreciate its larger meaning. When we show our resolve to work as a team and succeed, no obstacle will hold us back, not tight budgets, not slow enrollment, and certainly not a 230-pound linebacker.

This is a lesson for each student and also the faculty and staff who make up the UNC Pembroke team. Let’s continue the winning tradition when we are in the classroom and as we work to raise UNC Pembroke to the next level.

It’s great to be a BRAVE!