

# Perspectives

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PBCC's Staff and Faculty Newsletter

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## **\$1 million gift to establish Kathryn W. Davis Global Education Center**

Dr. Kathryn W. Davis, a long-time supporter of education who turned 100 last month, has pledged to give \$1 million to Palm Beach Community College to establish a Global Education Center.

The Kathryn W. Davis Global Education Center will be a one-stop education and resource program to help improve the success of foreign-born and international students with varying degrees of prior formal education who are enrolled in credit and noncredit programs at PBCC. Davis' dream is to strengthen American culture by providing educational opportunities for immigrants to the country. The Center will provide a forum for civics education and promote interaction between U.S. and international students.

"We are so grateful to Ms. Davis for her generous gift to PBCC and for entrusting us with this incredible opportunity to build a program that could become a model for others around the country," said Dr. Dennis P. Gallon, PBCC president. "Palm Beach County's population has shifted over the last decade to include a growing number of international students, and we want to do all that we can to ensure the success of our students, during their enrollment and after they complete their studies at our institution."

The Global Education Center will allow PBCC to enhance and expand a myriad of programs and services already in place to provide educational opportunities, as well as scholarship opportunities for those experiencing financial hardships. The Center will integrate the services of selected County-wide support services, provide instruction in English as a Second Language (ESOL), as well as a variety of other programs and services that would facilitate acculturation and assimilation into the American democratic society.

The concept for the center fits in line with the interests of Davis, a part-time Palm Beach County resident, who has spent much of her life working to improve American understanding of world culture and politics. She is a noted philanthropist and staunch supporter of arts, education, genetic science, environmental conservation and global peace initiatives. She has been a research author of *The United States in World Affairs*, published annually by The Council on Foreign Relations, and has written articles for *Reader's Digest* and other periodicals, as well as a book titled, *The Soviets at Geneva*. For many years, she lectured before educational and civic groups on India, Russia, China and Switzerland.

In 1932, she married the late Shelby Cullom Davis, who founded Shelby Cullom Davis & Company, one of the largest and oldest investment firms in New York, and who later became the U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland. Following the Soviet development of nuclear capabilities, the couple started The Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation in hopes that greater communication would lessen the likelihood of nuclear conflagration. Davis remains chair and trustee of The Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation, as well as a partner of Shelby Cullom Davis & Company.