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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Beach State College opts against Holley site lease

LAKE WORTH, Fla. (Jan. 25, 2013) – Citing a reversal of opinion from the state, Palm Beach State College leaders have decided not to exercise their option to lease the former A.G. Holley State Hospital property in Lantana from the state Department of Environmental Protection.

College President Dennis P. Gallon said today that the decision to decline a proposed 50-year lease came after DEP changed its legal position on the status of existing subleases for portions of the property. Reversing its earlier position, the DEP informed the College that it had no plans to terminate those subleases. The College had been looking to lease an 88-acre plot, which included about 22 acres fronting Lantana Road and used by the Town of Lantana for a sports complex.

“When we learned that the most critical and valuable portion of the 88 acres would not be available, we had to assess whether the remaining parcel and the significant costs that come with it would be a good investment for the College and for the taxpayers,” Dr. Gallon said. “In our best judgment, this opportunity no longer meets that criteria.”

The College had notified the DEP six months ago that it was interested in exploring a lease for the site. The deadline to close the deal was this weekend.

Serving 49,000 students annually, Palm Beach State College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing bachelor's degrees, associate degrees, professional certificates, career training and lifelong learning. Established in 1933 as Florida's first public community college, it offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

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