

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New provost named for Palm Beach Community College at Boca Raton

(Boca Raton, Fla. – Aug. 22, 2007) Dr. Bernadette Mendonez Russell, a former economist with more than 20 years of higher education experience, has been named the new provost of Palm Beach Community College's Boca Raton campus.

Russell was appointed by PBCC President Dennis P. Gallon after a nationwide search. She comes to PBCC from Marywood University in Scranton, Pa., where she has served as dean of the School of Continuing Education since 2001. She takes leadership of the 6,000-student campus Sept. 4, and replaces Dr. Celeste Beck who retired earlier this year.

"I'm very excited. It's a great opportunity for me to assume the position of provost of the Boca Raton campus because when I toured it, it looked like it was a very dynamic campus, and the people are friendly. I really like the atmosphere," she said.

Russell has extensive experience with community colleges and has spent much of her career in administrative positions with Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, N.Y. She taught economics for 10 years before beginning her administrative career in 1989 as the director of institutional research and planning at Onondaga. She later served as Onondaga's dean of arts and sciences and vice president for academic affairs. She also has served as dean of the division of humanities and social sciences at Middlesex County College in Edison, N.J.

A native of the Philippines, Russell came to the United States in 1975 as an international student at Syracuse University, where she earned a master's degree in urban and regional planning and a Ph.D. in social sciences with a focus on economics and planning. She also holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in economics from the Philippines.



(more)

Before coming to the U.S., she worked as an economist for the United Nations Development Programme in the Philippines.

Russell has received numerous awards, including a Fulbright Administrative Award to Germany in 1997. As a dean at Onondaga Community College, she received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service for the State University of New York. She also was granted a fellowship by the State University of New York in 1991 to participate in Harvard University's Management Development Program.

About Palm Beach Community College: Serving more than 46,000 students annually, Palm Beach Community College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing associate degrees, professional certificates, career and customized training and lifelong learning. Florida's first public community college, PBCC offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

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Editor's note: For a high resolution photo of Dr. Bernadette Mendonez Russell, visit www.pbcc.edu/images/marketing/bernadettemrussell.jpg.

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