Palm Beach Community College to honor three individuals, organization at King celebration

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Jan. 10, 2008) Palm Beach Community College will present Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Awards to three individuals and an organization during its celebration of the noted civil rights leader Jan. 17.

The 9th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast, themed “Making Dreams a Reality,” will be held at 7:30 a.m. in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza at PBCC in Lake Worth, 4200 Congress Ave. Nikki Giovanni, renowned poet and author and Virginia Tech English professor, will be the keynote speaker.

The award recipients are:

- **Freddie Stebbins Jefferson**, a retired PBCC professor and a columnist for the Palm Beach Post, who is being honored posthumously. In her weekly column, which ran from 1989 until her death last year, Jefferson addressed issues of racism and bigotry, often discussing how such prejudices, both conscious and unconscious, affect all people.

- **Timothy Henderson** of Lake Worth, a former administrator for the Quantum Foundation and the Palm Beach County Health Care District whose work helped establish numerous health care programs for children and adults in Palm Beach County, particularly the underserved. They include the H.O.P.E. project, a mobile mammography unit that serves uninsured women who otherwise would not get mammograms.

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• **Molly G. Johnson** of Boynton Beach, a PBCC nursing student who last year conducted a uniform drive for needy students at the Beacon Center at South Grade Elementary in Lake Worth.

• **Compass, Inc.**, which was established 20 years ago by a group of volunteers who came together to educate the community about HIV. Since then, Compass has evolved into a gay and lesbian community center that is the largest of its kind in the southeast. Compass partners with more than 250 nonprofits, community organizations, businesses and government agencies to ensure the dignity of all individuals in the county. It collaborates with organizations to support racial and ethnic equality, religious freedom, women’s rights, the concerns of seniors and economic justice.


**Palm Beach Community College**, Florida’s first public community college, is celebrating its 75th anniversary throughout 2008. The largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, PBCC serves more than 45,000 students annually through its associate degrees, professional certificates, career and customized training and lifelong learning. The College offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

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