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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Under Secretary of Education Martha Kanter to Explore College Affordability at Palm Beach State Forum

(Lake Worth, Fla., Feb. 3, 2012) -- If the skyrocketing cost of higher education concerns you, make plans to attend an upcoming forum to explore ways to ensure college affordability and completion.

Palm Beach State College will host a special “Making College Affordable” public forum featuring Dr. Martha J. Kanter, U.S. Under Secretary of Education, and a panel of educational leaders. It will be held Thursday, Feb. 9, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Duncan Theatre at the Lake Worth campus, 4200 Congress Ave.

Students, parents, faculty and staff, teachers, guidance counselors and advisors, administrators and interested community members are invited and encouraged to attend. This will be an opportunity to share views on issues that impact students’ access to courses and programs, such as tuition rates and financial aid availability.



Dr. Kanter will share highlights of the President’s new “Blueprint for Making College More Affordable.” The sweeping plan includes calls for reforming student aid, providing incentives for institutions to control costs and giving families new tools to make informed decisions on higher education.

President Obama introduced the plan during his State of the Union Address Jan. 24 and outlined it in more detail three days later at the University of Michigan. In these speeches, the President emphasized that completing college makes individuals twice as likely to have a job in today’s challenging economy. College graduates also make twice as much money as those who failed to finish high school. However, the cost of

attending college has soared, and for the first time, Americans owe more on their student loans than they do on their credit cards. The Blueprint addresses needed changes at all levels to help students afford and complete their college education.

At the U.S. Department of Education, Under Secretary Kanter oversees policies, programs and activities related to postsecondary education, adult and career-technical education, federal student aid and five White House Initiatives: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Educational Excellence for Hispanics, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. She focuses on improving college access, affordability, quality and completion.

Serving more than 51,000 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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