



Feb. 2, 2012

## **MEDIA ADVISORY/PHOTO OP**

### **Palm Beach State to help brighten smiles of more than 200 local children**

**What:** Palm Beach State College's Dental Health Services will provide free preventative dental services to more than 200 children from Palm Beach County Head Start as part of the American Dental Association's annual "Give Kids A Smile" children's dental access program.

Students in the College's Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene programs will provide dental health lessons and oral health exams, including oral prophylaxis/cleanings and fluoride varnish applications. The ADA established Give Kids A Smile in 2002 to provide access to dental services to children from low-income families. Give Kids A Smile is celebrated each year on the first Friday in February.

This is Palm Beach State's 6<sup>th</sup> year participating in Give Kids A Smile. Last year, more than 44, 800 dental team members nationwide volunteered for Give Kids A Smile day.

**When:** **Friday, Feb. 3** from 8 a.m. to noon

**Where:** Palm Beach State College, Dental Health Services building, 4200 Congress Ave., Lake Worth (Take the Congress Avenue entrance to the campus, make a left and then a right).

**Why:** Nearly one in four children ages 2-11 suffer from untreated tooth decay, according to the Centers for Disease Control. In addition to providing dental services to local, qualifying children, Give Kids A Smile helps raise awareness of the epidemic of untreated dental disease around the country and the need to build local public and private partnerships to help solve the problem.

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*Serving more than 51,000 students annually, Palm Beach State College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing the bachelor's degree, 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*