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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Beach State College Receives TRiO grant for Student Support Services

(Lake Worth, Fla.- August 24, 2010) Palm Beach State College recently received \$255,505 per year for five years from the Department of Education for TRiO Grant Student Support Services.

For over ten years Palm Beach State has successfully conducted a Student Support Services (SSS) program. SSS is a free program funded by TRiO, a set of federally-funded college opportunity programs established in 1964 that motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds in their pursuit of college degrees.

The specific purpose of the SSS program is to provide academic and other support services to low-income, first-generation or disabled college students to increase students' retention and graduation rates, facilitate their transfer from two-year to four-year colleges, and foster an institutional climate supportive of their success. Several key areas of the College including Financial Aid, Academic Advising, and the Department of Institutional Research and Effectiveness are united in the delivery of the SSS program.

"Student success is [Palm Beach State's] top priority," said Van Williams, TRiO and outreach director, "We recognize that each student is unique with diverse needs and goals and the SSS program allows us to develop the whole student, form personal relationships that positively impact student achievement, and ensure students have great experiences in their academic pursuits."

This newly awarded funding will allow the College to continue this service to 170 eligible SSS students through the establishment of content-specific learning communities, student grant aid, academic and personal needs assessment to develop an Academic Success Plan for each participant, College orientation and SSS program, financial aid counseling, financial literacy training academic advisement and support, career development, technology training, tutoring, counseling, cultural events, student activities, transfer activities, workshops to enhance students' success and retention, and intensive participant monitoring and developmental advising to increase participants' retention, graduation and transfer rates.

Serving more than 52,000 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.

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