Graduating Student Survey
(August 2010 – May 2011)

Prepared by:
Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness
May, 2011

1. Have you attended Palm Beach State primarily as a:

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Full-time student	569	73%
2	Part-time student	215	27%
	Total	784	100%

2. On which campus have you taken most of your classes?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Lake Worth	420	53%
2	Palm Beach Gardens	199	25%
3	Boca Raton	119	15%
4	Belle Glade	26	3%
5	Took most of my classes on-line	23	3%
	Total	787	100%

3. Have you attended classes primarily as a:

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Day student	536	69%
2	Evening student	206	26%
3	Weekend student	3	0%
4	Distance/Online learning student	37	5%
	Total	782	100%

4. Please indicate the degree or certificate with which you are graduating:

#	Answer	Response	%
1	AA degree	596	76%
2	AS/AAS degree	101	13%
3	Certificate (ATC, PSAV Cert., College Credit Cert.)	54	7%
4	Bachelor's degree	29	4%
	Total	780	100%

5. During the time you have been enrolled at Palm Beach State, have you been:

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Employed full-time	318	41%
2	Employed part-time	290	37%
3	Homemaker, not employed outside the home	22	3%
4	Not employed and seeking employment	95	12%
5	Not employed and not seeking employment	58	7%
	Total	783	100%

6. If you have been employed while attending Palm Beach State, has your job been related to your curriculum at the College?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes, directly related	90	12%
2	Yes, somewhat related	180	23%
3	No, not related	373	48%
4	Not employed while attending Palm Beach State	129	17%
	Total	772	100%

7. Have you received financial aid or scholarships while attending Palm Beach State?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	528	68%
2	No	253	32%
	Total	781	100%

8. What has been your primary goal in attending Palm Beach State?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	To obtain occupational/technical training that would improve present/future employment	54	7%
2	To obtain an occupational/technical (AS/AAS) degree or certificate	126	16%
3	To obtain an associate degree (AA) in order to transfer to a four-year college/university	553	71%
4	To obtain a bachelor degree	17	2%
5	To enroll in courses that would satisfy specialized/personal interests	9	1%
6	Other (please specify)	21	3%
	Total	780	100%

9. Have you achieved your primary goal in attending Palm Beach State?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	722	93%
2	No	42	5%
3	Not Sure (please elaborate)	14	2%
	Total	778	100%

10. Please indicate the most important reasons why you selected Palm Beach State. (Check all that apply.)

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Affordable tuition	594	76%
2	Guaranteed admission for high school graduates	161	21%
3	Close to home	639	82%
4	Good academic reputation	252	32%
5	Availability of financial aid	253	33%
6	Offered courses/curriculum of interest	288	37%
7	Small classes/individual attention	347	45%
8	Only program offered locally in my area of interest	49	6%
9	Availability of evening/weekend courses	255	33%
10	Availability of online courses	204	26%

11. If Palm Beach State had not been available, would you have been able to continue your education elsewhere?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	594	77%
2	No	182	23%
	Total	776	100%

12. Please indicate the primary reason why you would not have been able to continue your education elsewhere:

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Only Palm Beach State offered my program	22	4%
2	Only able to attend college within commuting distance of my home	111	22%
3	Tuition and fees at other colleges were more than I could afford	185	37%
4	Only Palm Beach State offered courses at times that fit with my family and work responsibilities	63	13%
5	Was not accepted for admission into other colleges	32	6%
6	Other (please specify)	86	17%
	499	499	100%

13. After graduating from Palm Beach State, what are your plans for the future?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Transfer to a four-year school	471	61%
2	Continuing at Palm Beach State in another degree program (e.g., BAS)	136	18%
3	Work full-time	97	13%
4	Work part-time	10	1%
5	Military	4	1%
6	Not sure	30	4%
7	Other (please specify)	27	4%
	Total	775	100%

14. INSTRUCTION AT PALM BEACH STATE: Please rate on a 5-point scale (where 5= Excellent and 1= Poor) how you feel about the following items related to instruction at Palm Beach State College. If you are unsure of your opinion, select "Don't Know."

#	Question	Excellent (5)		(4)		(3)		(2)		Poor (1)		Responses
1	Overall quality of instruction	297	39%	340	45%	104	14%	9	1%	6	1%	756
2	Individual attention from professors	314	42%	295	39%	113	15%	23	3%	10	1%	755
3	Instructor availability	298	40%	281	38%	138	19%	21	3%	8	1%	746
4	Course advisement from faculty members	269	37%	245	33%	135	18%	42	6%	43	6%	734
5	Content of courses in major curriculum	298	40%	318	43%	105	14%	14	2%	7	1%	742
6	Average class size	422	56%	252	34%	65	9%	8	1%	5	1%	752
7	Quality of curriculum in providing job-related skills and knowledge	305	43%	265	37%	116	16%	21	3%	9	1%	716
8	Quality of curriculum in preparing for further education	326	44%	273	37%	113	15%	17	2%	5	1%	734
9	Fairness of grading and testing practices	342	46%	278	37%	101	14%	20	5%	7	1%	748
10	Availability of courses in the sequence you need them	313	42%	267	36%	116	16%	29	4%	22	3%	747

15. SERVICES AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS: Please rate on a 5-point scale (where 5= Excellent and 1= Poor) how you feel about the following services and resources available to students at Palm Beach State College. If you have never used a particular service, select "Didn't use".

#	Question	Excellent (5)		(4)		(3)		(2)		Poor (1)		Responses
1	Academic Advising	280	39%	204	28 %	124	17%	48	7%	68	9%	724
2	Personal Guidance and Counseling	228	38%	164	27%	125	21%	40	7%	46	8%	603
3	Financial Aid Services	266	43%	144	23%	101	16 %	50	8%	52	8%	613
4	Admissions	320	44%	216	30%	145	20%	24	3%	27	4%	732
5	Registration Process	343	46%	222	30%	125	17%	22	3%	29	4%	741
6	Assistance over the phone	207	32%	152	24%	118	18%	70	11%	92	14%	639
7	PantherWeb Services	443	59%	214	29%	70	9%	12	2%	7	1%	746
8	Palm Beach State College Website	431	58%	225	30%	76	10%	9	1%	8	1%	749
9	Testing Services	300	49%	203	33%	88	14%	15	2%	9	1%	615
10	Lab Facilities (biology, chemistry, math, etc.)	314	52%	181	30%	88	15%	10	2%	10	2%	603
11	Library	365	54%	197	29%	76	11%	16	2%	17	3%	671
12	Career planning and counseling	223	42 %	147	28%	102	19%	25	5%	30	6%	527
13	Student Activities (clubs, events, etc.)	214	46%	140	30%	84	18%	16	3%	16	3%	470
14	Cafeteria	204	35%	165	28%	131	23%	42	7%	38	7%	580
15	Student Learning Centers	288	51%	165	29%	83	15%	16	3%	12	2%	564
16	Disability Support Services	175	56%	81	26%	41	13%	8	3%	6	2%	311
17	Athletics	171	51%	80	24%	54	16%	19	6%	12	4%	336
18	Theater	195	51%	114	30%	57	15%	12	3%	7	2%	385

16. PREPARATION: Palm Beach State has seven General Education Learning Outcomes (listed below). Please rate on a 5-point scale (where 5= Excellent and 1= Poor) how you feel Palm Beach State has helped you increase your competency in these learning areas.

#	Question	Excellent (5)		(4)		(3)		Poor (2)		Don't Know (1)		Responses
1	COMMUNICATION (Reading, writing, speaking)	356	48%	258	35%	82	11%	11	1%	29	4%	736
2	GLOBAL AWARENESS (Sense of community; sensitivity to diversity; civic responsibility; respect/care for natural environment)	294	40%	257	35%	131	18%	18	2%	35	5%	735
3	CRITICALTHINKING (Evaluate arguments; separate fact/opinion; recognize points of view; understand implications/consequences; acknowledge diverse values)	333	45%	253	34%	120	16%	9	1%	21	3%	736
4	TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION LITERACY (Use printed materials and technology to find, evaluate, organize, and present information)	327	44%	250	34%	125	17%	12	2%	25	3%	739
5	QUANTITATIVE REASONING (Use college-level mathematical concepts and methods)	310	42%	250	34%	126	17%	13	2%	35	5%	734
6	ETHICS (Responsibility for personal, social, professional, educational and natural environments)	332	45%	250	34%	119	16%	12	2%	23	3%	736
7	PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT (Understand and manage self; adapt to change; learn effectively; set goals)	354	48%	241	33%	112	15%	8	1%	21	3%	736

17. YOUR EXPERIENCE. The College is trying to create a welcoming and supportive environment. The following are characteristics of such an environment. Please rate on a 5-point scale (where 5= Excellent and 1= Poor) how you feel about the following aspects of your experience at Palm Beach State College. I f you are unsure of your opinion for a particular area, please select "Don't Know."

#	Question	Excellent (5)		(4)		(3)		Poor (2)		Don't Know (1)		Responses
1	Opportunity to meet and interact with other students	354	48%	248	33%	106	14 %	14	2%	19	3%	741
2	Availability of faculty outside of class	258	35%	283	38%	146	20%	16	2%	40	5 %	743
3	General helpfulness of faculty	312	42%	263	36%	140	19%	12	1%	10	1%	737
4	General helpfulness of other college employees	270	37%	262	36%	145	20%	25	3%	35	5%	737
5	Adequacy of study spaces	309	42%	266	36%	109	15%	28	4%	29	4%	741
6	Adequacy of comfortable places to rest and relax between classes	288	39%	250	34%	127	17%	37	5%	38	5%	740
7	Cleanliness and attractiveness of campus	324	44%	266	36%	132	18%	15	2%	11	1%	741
8	Sense of comfort with institutional cultural diversity	350	47%	239	32%	118	16%	11	1%	20	3%	738
9	Sense of personal and property safety on campus	287	39%	260	35%	143	19%	39	5%	15	2%	744
10	Sense of being respected and valued as an individual	340	46%	256	35%	116	16%	16	2%	8	1%	736

18. What is your overall impression of Palm Beach State?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Excellent	363	48%
2	Good	346	45%
3	Fair	41	5%
4	Poor	11	1%
	Total	761	100%

19. Would you recommend Palm Beach State to your friends?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Definitely	532	70%
2	Probably	176	23%
3	Might or might not	35	5%
4	Probably not	4	1%
5	Definitely not	11	1%
	Total	758	100%

20. How many years have you attended Palm Beach State?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Less than 1 year	8	1%
2	1 year, but less than 2 years	76	10%
3	2 years, but less than 3 years	273	37%
4	3 years, but less than 5 years	276	37%
5	5 years or more	107	15%
	Total	740	

21. What is your gender?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Male	245	32%
2	Female	511	68%
	Total	756	100%

22. What is your age?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Under 20	49	6%
2	20 - 21	191	25%
3	22 - 24	184	24%
4	25 - 29	124	16%
5	30 - 39	109	14%
6	40 or older	104	14%
	Total	761	100%

23. What is your racial/ethnic background?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Asian or Pacific Islander	24	3%
2	Black or African American	190	25%
3	Hispanic or Latino	173	23%
4	American Indian or Alaskan Native	7	1%
5	White	321	42%
6	Other (please specify)	41	5%
	Total	756	100%