

Center for Applied Ethics gets underway at Palm Beach State

Kim Ardila-Morgan named director

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Jan. 25, 2011) Palm Beach State College has launched a new center that will provide ethics training for public, private, nonprofit, community and school leaders and serve as a catalyst and advocate for building and sustaining a culture of ethics in Palm Beach County.

Kim Ardila-Morgan, who has worked at Palm Beach State for 24 years, has been appointed director of the Center for Applied Ethics based at the College's Lake Worth campus. She brings a wealth of experience to the position, having served for 20 years as director of the former Florida Institute of Government (FIOG) affiliate at Palm Beach State, and, most recently, as director of the College's Language Connections Institute. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Texas at Arlington.

As director of the FIOG, Ardila-Morgan worked with a diverse steering committee with members from various agencies and government to provide professional development, training, and technical assistance to elected and appointed officials from local and state government.

The College received \$200,000 from the state legislature last year to launch the center. A consortium of local groups, including Leadership Palm Beach County, approached the College about creating the center after a series of convictions of Palm Beach County and West Palm Beach commissioners.

"As an institute of higher learning, it is gratifying for us to expand this area of our curriculum inventory," said Dr. Dennis Gallon, president of Palm Beach State. "We will do everything we can to provide top notch training for our area leaders and the community at-large that we hope will help restore the public's trust not only in the transactions and operations of local governments, but also that of the business, nonprofit, and education sectors. I am confident that Kim will do excellent in bringing the type of programming that will generate significant results."

The Center for Applied Ethics held its inaugural event last week — two daylong Ethical Fitness® seminars presented by Paula Mirk, director of education at the Institute for Global Ethics in Maine. Each seminar attracted 21 people from such organizations as the United Way, the League of Cities, Children’s Services Council, Small Business Development Corp., the Palm Beach County Economic Council and others.

The center will complement the work already underway by the Palm Beach County Commission, which approved an ethics reform package in 2009 that included the establishment of an independent ethics commission and an inspector general.

For more information on the Center for Applied Ethics, please contact Ardila-Morgan at (561) 868-3545.

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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