

## Foster named new dean of academic affairs at Palm Beach State in Boca Raton

(Boca Raton, Fla. — Sept. 14, 2011) Dr. Michael L. Foster has joined Palm Beach State College as the new dean of academic affairs on the Boca Raton campus.

A native of Columbus, Ga., Foster began his higher education career in 1995 as an associate professor of biology at Eastern Kentucky University. He served for one year as interim chair of the Department of Biological Sciences before being named in 2007 interim assistant dean for academic and student affairs for ECU's College of Arts and Sciences, where he oversaw 16 departments. He was permanently named assistant dean in 2008. Foster developed one of the first fully



online courses offered at ECU, and he developed a new graduate and undergraduate evolution course for the Department of Biological Sciences. After serving at ECU for 15 years, Foster moved to Tallahassee to start an educational consulting business. However, he missed being in academia.

Foster said he is excited about his new role at Palm Beach State. "I like a lot of things about Palm Beach State College, and I'm looking forward to being a part of moving us forward. It seems to be very student-centered. The more I learn about the individual accomplishments of the campuses, the more proud I am to be associated with my colleagues," he said.

He holds a Ph.D. in biological sciences from the University of South Carolina and a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga.

*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.*

**Editor's note:** Please contact the Office of College Relations and Marketing for a high-resolution photo of Dr. Michael L. Foster.

**Media contact:**

Tabatha B. McDonald  
College Relations and Marketing Specialist  
(561) 868-3127