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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Palm Beach State College to broadcast commencement ceremonies live on the Web

(West Palm Beach, Fla. – Dec. 9, 2011) When Palm Beach State College graduates walk across the stage to accept their degree or certificate Dec. 16, the whole world will be able to watch.

For the first time ever, the College's commencement ceremonies will be webcast live, allowing family and friends unable to attend in person to still see their favorite graduate. "It gives families more access," said Ed Mueller, Palm Beach State registrar and chair of the commencement committee. A link to the live stream will be available at [www.palmbeachstate.edu](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu).

The College will award about 1,700 Bachelor of Applied Science, Associate in Arts, Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science degrees during the Commencement ceremony at 1 p.m. at the Palm Beach County Convention in West Palm Beach. A separate ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. for about 630 graduates of the College's certificate programs that prepare students to go directly into the workforce in such fields as dental assisting, welding, massage therapy and cosmetology.

With only 3,000 seats available for spectators at the heavily attended degree program ceremony, the College gives each graduate four tickets.

"There is limited seating in the degree graduation," Mueller said, noting that about 600 to 700 graduates are expected to participate in the ceremony. "(The webcast) allows everyone to see. If you can't make it there for some reason, you can watch it online."

In addition to Palm Beach State President Dennis Gallon and William Berger, chair of the District Board of Trustees, the fall commencement speakers include:

**Jessica Gordon**, a U.S. Army veteran who joined the military in 2006 to have a financial means to attend college. She served three years as a medic in the military, including 13 months in Iraq, before receiving an honorable discharge in 2009. An active member and the current president of the Boca Raton campus' Veterans Club, she will receive an Associate in Arts degree and plans to continue her education to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing.

**Abigail Pettigrew**, an honors student on the Belle Glade campus who served as the campus editor for the Beachcomber student newspaper. She is receiving an Associate in Science degree in nursing. She plans to continue her education to pursue dual bachelor's degrees in nursing and journalism.

**Bill Graham**, a Palm Beach State College business professor and former member of the Palm Beach County School Board, who will lead the alumni induction ceremony during the degree program graduation. Graham, a graduate of then Palm Beach Junior College, is retiring in January after 35 years as a full-time professor.

**Victoria E. Rodriguez**, a 2009 graduate of the human services college credit certificate program, who will lead the alumni pledge at the morning ceremony for certificate graduates.

**Althemese Millines**, a student on the Lake Worth campus, who is receiving a College Credit Certificate in Human Services and plans to go in substance abuse counseling.

*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.*

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