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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Jeff Johnson to speak at King celebration

(Lake Worth, Fla. - Dec. 15, 2011) – Jeff Johnson, an MSNBC contributor and White House correspondent for TheGrio.com, will be the keynote speaker at Palm Beach State College's 13th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast.

The event will be held Jan. 12 at 7:30 a.m., with the program beginning at 8:15 a.m. The activities will take place in the outdoor plaza on the Lake Worth campus named in King's honor as well as the Duncan Theatre, 4200 Congress Ave. It is free and open to the public.

During the celebration, the College will honor the recipients of its Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award. They are: **D'atra Franklin** (Student), a Palm Beach State student who has been advocating for legislation to help children aging out of the foster care system; **Mark Hansen** (Alumni), a former Palm Beach County School Board member who, through his books and service, is committed to helping and empowering youth; **Carlton "Ricky" Wade** (Individual), a McDonald's franchisee of 11 restaurants in Palm Beach County whose business presence and personal involvement has enriched youth in the community. **El Sol**, Jupiter's neighborhood resource center that provides services for immigrants and low-income individuals in the community, will receive the award in the organization category.



Based in the nation's capital, Johnson converses with world figures in politics, business and entertainment. He is acclaimed for his grassroots work to inspire a new generation of leaders, his BET specials and commentaries on the nationally syndicated Tom Joyner Morning Show, and his trailblazing work as CEO of Jeff's Nation, LLC.

As an MSNBC contributor and White House correspondent for The Grio, an African American website owned by NBC, Johnson covers important issues facing the nation. He has spent the last decade merging the worlds of politics and popular culture. He has served as senior advisor for media and youth outreach for People for the American Way, national director of the Youth

& College division of the NAACP, and vice president of the Russell Simmons Hip Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN).

For more information on the celebration, visit [www.palmbeachstate.edu/MLK.xml](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/MLK.xml) or call (561) 868-3111.

*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:** Photos of Jeff Johnson are attached.

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