



COLLEGE RELATIONS  
AND MARKETING

4200 Congress Avenue  
Lake Worth, FL 33461-4796

561-868-3122  
561-868-3123

[www.PalmBeachState.edu](http://www.PalmBeachState.edu)  
[crmarket@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:crmarket@palmbeachstate.edu)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MEDIA ADVISORY/PHOTO OP

### **Palm Beach State to help brighten smiles of more than 200 local children this week**

**What:** Palm Beach State College's Dental Health Services will provide free preventative dental services to more than 200 children from Palm Beach County Head Start as part of the American Dental Association's annual "Give Kids A Smile" children's dental access program.

Students in the College's Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene programs will provide dental health lessons and oral health exams, including oral prophylaxis/cleanings and fluoride varnish applications. The ADA established Give Kids A Smile in 2002 to provide access to dental services to children from low-income families. Give Kids A Smile is celebrated each year on the first Friday in February.

This is Palm Beach State's 5<sup>th</sup> year participating in Give Kids A Smile. The College is holding its event over two days, however, to accommodate all of the children. Last year more than 39,000 dental team members nationwide volunteered for Give Kids A Smile day.

**When:** **Thursday, Feb. 3** from 8 a.m. to noon  
**Friday, Feb. 4** from 8 a.m. to noon (***This is the actual "Give Kids A Smile" day***)

**Where:** Palm Beach State College, Dental Health Services building, 4200 Congress Ave., Lake Worth (Take the Lake Worth Road entrance to the campus, make a right at the stop sign, drive just a bit and

then make a left. Another option is to take the Congress Avenue entrance to the campus, make a left and then a right).

**Why:**

Nearly-half of children ages 2-9 suffer from untreated tooth decay. In Florida, only 24 percent of children enrolled in Medicaid received any dental service in 2007. In addition to providing dental services to local, qualifying children, Give Kids A Smile helps raise awareness of the epidemic of untreated dental disease around the country and the need to build local public and private partnerships to help solve the problem.

**Media**

**contacts:**

Tabatha McDonald  
College Relations and Marketing Specialist  
561- 868-3127

Marilee McGaughey  
Assistant Professor  
561- 868-3759

*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*