

Palm Beach State's teacher preparation program takes lead in implementing new national standards

Common Core standards to be focus of training new K-12 teachers

(Lake Worth, Fla. – August 2, 2012) Palm Beach State College, along with its fellow Florida College System institutions, will be the first in the nation to voluntarily commit to a system-wide implementation of the Common Core State Standards in teacher education. Palm Beach State's Institute of Teacher Education will embed the new K-12 standards in its curriculum so that its graduates enter the classroom ready to teach using the Common Core.

These standards define the knowledge and skills students should achieve during their K-12 education so that they will be ready to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs. With full implementation expected by the 2014-15 school year, the Common Core State Standards were developed in a process led by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers, with nationwide input from educators, parents and community leaders. Thus far, 45 states and 3 territories have adopted the standards.

"This is an exciting time for Florida—both K-12 and postsecondary—where major reform on both sides is occurring to get students ready for success. The FCS anticipates a new generation of students armed with the Common Core coming out of Florida's high schools and we are ready for them," says Florida College System Chancellor Randall W. Hanna.

Palm Beach State has long recognized the important connection between its mission and that of K-12 education. "The quality of our teacher education has a direct impact on upcoming elementary and secondary students, who in turn become our college students," says Palm Beach State President Dennis Gallon. "In addition to training new teachers, Palm Beach State is uniquely positioned to offer Common Core training to current educators."

Palm Beach State's Institute of Teacher Education, which includes its long-established Teacher Certification Program, offers a wide array of credit and professional development courses and programs for students, working teachers and career

changers seeking an alternate route to professional teacher certification. “We’re preparing to implement Common Core State Standards throughout our curriculum and materials,” says Susan Caldwell, associate dean for teacher education and social sciences. “We view these new standards as an opportunity to reinforce our commitment to developing excellent educators who are prepared to teach at the highest level.”

About Palm Beach State College

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. For more information, visit www.palmbeachstate.edu.

About The Florida College System

Florida’s colleges remain the primary point of access to higher education in Florida, with 66 percent of the state’s high school graduates pursuing postsecondary education beginning at a Florida college, and 82 percent of freshman and sophomore minority students in public higher education attending one of Florida’s 28 colleges. To learn more about The Florida College System, visit www.fldoe.org/cc/.

For more information about the Common Core State Standards Initiative, visit www.corestandards.org.

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