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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Palm Beach State awarded \$3 million federal grant to develop health information technology programs**

### ***College also shares in \$15 million statewide award for manufacturing job training***

(LAKE WORTH, Fla. – Sept. 25, 2012) Palm Beach State College will significantly enhance its health information, machining and welding technology programs using grants awarded as part of the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program.

The grants, announced Sept. 19 by Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis, are the second installment of the \$2 billion, four-year initiative, which targets the development of job training and local employer partnerships in fields such as health care, advanced manufacturing and transportation.

Overall, grants totaling \$500 million were awarded to 297 institutions nationwide, most through consortia. In addition to sharing in a \$15 million Florida consortium grant, the College is one of only 27 institutions nationally to receive an individual grant.

Palm Beach State's individual \$3 million TAACCCT grant will go towards developing online and technology-enabled learning to further build its Health Information Technology Associate in Science degree and newly launched Health Informatics Specialist College Credit Certificate, among other HIT programs at the College. The HIT programs prepare students to work in a variety of capacities concerning health data collection, analysis and reporting, as the nation's health care providers respond to a federal mandate and switch from paper to electronic health records by 2014. With the ultimate goal of enabling students to compete for high-skill, high-growth HIT careers, the College also will implement intensive student support services, working collaboratively with Workforce Alliance and local health care employers.

"Receiving two TAACCCT grants is an important milestone for the College," said Palm Beach State President Dennis P. Gallon, Ph.D. "The funds will help us fast track the expansion of vital programs designed to provide local employers with the highly skilled talent they need to grow."

Palm Beach State also will receive \$975,000 of the \$15 million TAACCCT grant awarded to a consortium of 12 Florida colleges led by St. Petersburg College. The consortium will focus on improving education and training programs in advanced manufacturing, an industry experiencing a critical workforce shortage. Palm Beach State will use its funds to enhance its established Machining Technology and Welding Technology programs. The College will better align curriculum to industry needs, increase employer partnerships and enable wider access to training using methods most suitable for student learning.

The U.S. Department of Labor is implementing and administering the program in coordination with the U.S. Department of Education. To learn more about the grant program, visit <http://www.doleta.gov/taaccct>.

Visit [www.palmbeachstate.edu/AreasofStudy](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/AreasofStudy) for more information about Palm Beach State College programs.

*Serving 49,000 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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