

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information, contact
Grace Truman, (561) 868-3122

PBCC NAMES NEW BELLE GLADE DEAN

Following a nationwide search, Palm Beach Community College has tapped one of its own to become the new dean of educational services in Belle Glade.

Professor Freddie Bennett, Ed.D, who has worked at the College's Boca Raton location since 1990, was selected for the position from a pool of 132 applicants, nine of whom were interviewed by College committees and the community.

He will begin his new role Aug. 12, overseeing both academic and student services programs for the campus' 1,500 students. He replaces Ken Ray who now serves as dean of student services at the Boca Raton location.

"I'm extremely excited about the opportunity to work with the students in Belle Glade," Dr. Bennett said. "I think my people skills will help me connect Palm Beach Community College with the community."

Helen Franke, Ph.D, the provost in Belle Glade for 14 years, said Dr. Bennett brings a wealth of experience to the campus. "We've had many changes occurring and we're looking forward to working with Dr. Bennett to meet our challenges and opportunities," she said.

Dr. Bennett began working at PBCC as a health and physical education faculty member before becoming chair of the department. Prior to coming to PBCC, he was department chair for physical education and director of intramurals at St. Augustine College in Raleigh, NC for six years.

He received his doctorate in physical education with a minor in special education and educational administration from the University of Utah. He has attended the Educational Leadership program at Florida Atlantic University and was a Leadership Enhancement Education Program scholar at PBCC. In the past he has served as interim head women's basketball coach, head women's volleyball coach, advisor for the Black Students Association. He has served on numerous college committees and was chairman of the PBCC Curriculum Committee. Dr. Bennett has written several articles and presented at numerous conferences.

"Dr. Bennett comes to this position with a strong commitment to students, an understanding of student services and activities, a dedication to academic integrity, experience in teaching and administration, and a very high level of energy and enthusiasm," said Sharon Sass, vice president of academic affairs.

Editor's Advisory: A photo of Dr. Bennett can be downloaded from the following address:

<http://www.pbcc.edu/homeimage/drbenett.jpg>

Right click on the photo and click on "save as."