

COLLEGE RELATIONS AND MARKETING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 9, 2004

Palm Beach Community College to Honor Three Individuals, an Organization and a Business as Part of its Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast Jan. 15

Honorees include: Retired Glades Central High School Principal Effie C. Grear, longtime PBCC at Boca Raton Professor Leonard Bruton, Riviera Beach businessman Randy Johnson, Sr., nonprofit group Toward a More Perfect Union and Centex Rooney Construction Co.

WHAT: **Joe Martin**, a motivational speaker, author and former university professor, will be the keynote speaker at the 5th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Breakfast at Palm Beach Community College.

As part of the event, the College will present awards to **Effie C. Grear**, retired Glades Central High School Principal, longtime PBCC at Boca Raton Professor **Leonard Bruton**, Riviera Beach businessman **Randy Johnson**, nonprofit group **Toward a More Perfect Union** and **Centex Rooney Construction Co.**

WHEN: Thursday, Jan. 15– 8 a.m.

WHERE: Palm Beach Community College
Fountain Courtyard
4200 Congress Ave., Lake Worth

About the honorees:

- ❖ Having devoted 51 years of her life to serving as an educator in the public schools of West Virginia and Florida, **Dr. Effie C. Grear** retired in 2000. Most of her career—44 years—was spent in Belle Glade where she worked for 14 years as a teacher, band director, dean and assistant principal at all-black Lake Shore Junior-Senior High School before transferring during desegregation to newly created Glades Central High School in 1970. In 1975 she was named principal of Glades Central and served in

that role for a quarter of a century. She has touched the lives of countless students and others in the Glades.

- ❖ For more than 26 years, **Professor Leonard Bruton** has distinguished himself both inside and outside of the classroom. He has taught history at PBCC in Boca Raton since the fall of 1977 when he became the first full-time faculty member hired for that campus. Long before PBCC made diversity a college-wide strategic priority, Bruton was working to improve the racial mix of students at PBCC in Boca Raton, and he's been involved in coordinating diversity events and activities. After expressing the need for a more diverse student population, he was granted release time in 1990 to do minority recruiting. He visited churches, schools, professional organizations and community centers and high schools promoting the Boca Raton campus.

- ❖ **Randy Johnson, Sr.** started his telecommunications company in 1982 in the garage of his home with \$500, lots of prayers and hard work in an industry that requires \$500,000 to start. He dedicated the company to God, and every morning since the company's inception, he and his staff meet for prayer. Communications by Johnson, Inc. has grown to 16 employees, including Johnson's teenage sweetheart and wife of 40 years, Barbara, and their three children. It now has over 3,500 customers and is rated nationwide in the top 100 of all companies of its kind. The company services, installs and sells various types of telephone/voice and data communication systems.

- ❖ Since **Toward a More Perfect Union** was formed in 2000, it has conducted study circles on race relations, a process for small group deliberation on the issue of race and ethnicity and their impact on the community, in Jupiter, Northwood/Pleasant City and several Episcopal churches. It also has conducted several youth study circles in after-school centers throughout West Palm Beach. It is currently working to form public safety study circles with West Palm Beach Police and Fire Rescue departments and Weed and Seed community members.

- ❖ **Centex Rooney Construction Co.**, founded in 1933, has become Florida's largest provider of professional construction management services. Centex Rooney is a subsidiary of the Centex Corporation (NYSE-CTX), the publicly owned company that ranks among the nation's leading home builders and commercial contractors.

Its corporate philosophy of diversity has produced results. For example, it achieved 37 percent minority/women-owned business participation for the construction of the new Education and Training Center at PBCC. Overall the company averages 24 percent minority/women-owned business participation in projects.

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