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Education and Training Center construction contributed to PBCC's large economic impact in the county

(April 2, 2004 – Lake Worth) Palm Beach Community College pumped \$217.5 million into the local economy during the 2002-03 academic year, according to a recent report by the college. The construction of the Education and Training Center in Lake Worth had an economic impact of \$30 million. The report measured direct expenditures by PBCC to purchase goods and services plus employee and student expenditures, emphasizing PBCC's role as a major provider of jobs and income for Palm Beach County. PBCC contributed \$197 million to the local economy the previous year.

The new Education and Training Center was built in part to house work force programs for industries that create new, high-paying jobs in demand.

PBCC currently has 48,000 students at its locations in Lake Worth, Palm Beach Gardens, Boca Raton and Belle Glade. It employed 878 full-time staff members in 2002-03 and 1,520 part-time staff members. For a copy of the economic impact report, contact Richard Becker, vice president, administration and business services, at (561) 868-3137.

Nationally, economic impact reports from two-year colleges show that the students who complete associate degrees and occupational certificates are more likely to move into professional positions and management with higher earnings. The American Association of Community Colleges estimates that associate degree holders average lifetime earnings of \$250,000 more than people without degrees.

The economic impact generated by community colleges returns more to government coffers than they cost, say studies done for the Association of Community College Trustees.

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