

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBCC lands \$75,000 grant to help eighth-graders prepare for algebra and college success

(April 22, 2004 – Lake Worth, Fla.) Palm Beach Community College has been awarded a \$75,000 Community Outreach Grant from The College Board to help eighth-graders boost their algebra skills and eighth-grade math teachers enhance their methods of teaching it.

PBCC will partner with eight area middle schools to provide FCAT and other test preparation and workshops on college preparation. With the grant, the College also will provide workshops for parents of at-risk students on the importance of algebra in preparing students for college as well as information on the resources available to help their children prepare for the FCAT, SAT and other tests. Summer institutes to introduce eighth-grade math teachers to best practices for teaching algebra also will be offered.

Targeted schools are Lake Worth Community Middle, JFK Middle Magnet School, Bear Lakes Middle, Independence Middle, Lake Shore Middle, HL Watkins Middle, Carver Middle and Pahokee Middle/Senior High. PBCC also will provide funding from the grant to enhance the tutoring efforts at both Palm Beach Lakes and Pahokee high schools and provide summer math and science camps for students at Palm Beach Lakes.

The grant comes on the heels of a new School District of Palm Beach County requirement that all eighth-graders take algebra beginning next school year. The idea is that the sooner students take algebra the more prepared they will be for the 10th-grade FCAT and for higher education.

“We’re focusing on math because the College has a commitment to helping students improve in math,” said Tammy Greer, grant development manager. “We want to make sure they can do algebra so that when they get here, they don’t have to take prep courses.”

PBCC was among seven Florida community colleges to receive College Board grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 to connect underrepresented groups of students to college success. The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity.

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