

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Glades area youth learning to preserve Everglades at environmental camp in Belle Glade

25 middle schoolers will tour Nature's Lab, Dupuis Reserve, Miami Sea Aquarium, Everglades National Park and the Florida Keys

(Belle Glade, July 6, 2004) With a grant from the South Florida Water Management District, Palm Beach Community College will offer an environmental science program, "Panther Camp," for the second year in Belle Glade.

Twenty-five rising seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders from Glades Day, Lake Shore Middle and Pahokee Middle schools will learn the importance of the K-O-E watershed (Kissimmee River- Lake Okeechobee- Everglades) and how to become better stewards of the land. Panther Camp will begin July 12 and run until July 29.

The students will visit Dupuis Reserve, YMCA's Nature's Lab at Camp McConnell, Grassy Waters, Lake Okeechobee, Everglades National Park and the Florida Keys, learning from experts in environmental science, ecology and marine biology. The camp will provide hands-on opportunities to interact with the environment, including boat, hiking and snorkel tours. Panther Camp's curriculum will integrate culture, history, art and technology in a fun, hands-on learning environment. Panther Camp personnel also hope to promote careers in science and technology.

The students were chosen from the western communities of Palm Beach County because of the future ecosystem restoration projects that will occur within the area. The camp's objective is to foster knowledgeable ambassadors for the good of the land and the environment. For more information, contact Diana Barboni, grant program coordinator for environmental studies and community outreach, at (561) 868-3345.

Media contact:

Toni Wolf

College Relations and Marketing Specialist

(561) 868-3129

