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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Palm Beach Community College counselor takes helm of Florida Association of Community Colleges

(Palm Beach Gardens – Nov. 23, 2004) Jeff Peters, a counselor at Palm Beach Community College in Palm Beach Gardens, was sworn in Nov. 19 as the new president of the Florida Association of Community Colleges.

Peters, a Jupiter resident, had served for the last year as president-elect of the nearly 8,000 member professional organization for employees, boards, retirees and associates of Florida's 28 community colleges. He is the fourth employee from PBCC elected president of the 55-year-old, Tallahassee-based organization. And, he is the first from the College to hold the position in 37 years.

Peters has been active in FACC on the state level for several years. He has served as an exemplary practice judge and exemplary practice chair for the Student Development Commission, one of 15 commissions within FACC. He also served as vice president for commissions for three years before becoming president-elect.

Using the theme "Dare to be Great" for his administration, Peters said his priority will be membership. He hopes to increase the membership rolls to at least 10,000.

"In the past, FACC has had more of a focus on the legislative agenda. We've got to get back to the grass roots purpose of this organization— increasing professional development opportunities and membership," he said. "We're getting back to what the association was without losing the really important work we do regarding the legislature."

Peters began working at PBCC in 1989 in a grant-funded position before becoming a counselor in 1990. Prior to coming to PBCC, he worked at Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY from 1982-1987. He also worked as a counselor for the Center for Family Services and a counselor in private practice in Palm Beach County.

He holds a bachelor's degree from William Paterson College in New Jersey and a master's degree from Montclair State University in New Jersey.

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