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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Students join industry mentors to solve real world problems with technology

(Boca Raton – December 10, 2004) When middle and high school students joined the TechXplore program at Palm Beach Community College in Boca Raton in October, Florida's hurricanes were foremost in their minds. One group chose a technology project entitled "Light Up USA" to explore using solar energy to alleviate the widespread power outages.

Another TechXplore group at the College is researching how to use gaming to teach effectively. The students enter "Virtual Field Trip," which allows their industry mentor to take them into a virtual environment where team problems are solved. Members on the team communicate with one another and their mentor using head set microphones.

TechXplore, a National Science and Technology Education Partnership program, pairs experts from high-tech companies with teams of students to help them find technological solutions to real world problems. Students also compete in an online competition with other teams from around the world. Palm Beach Community College is the first college to host the national TechXplore program. The after-school classes are a part of PBCC's Youth College, which also offers summertime enrichment classes. Industry mentors represent Eximius Consulting, Inc., Jet Turbine Services, Baseline Engineering, Computer Associates and Boca Raton Magazine. PBCC engineering professor Michael Lively facilitates TechXplore at the College.

To find out more about TechXplore, go to www.pbcc.edu/dacum/techxplore and www.nationalstep.org

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Please note that the College will be closed from Dec. 18-Jan. 2.