



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Women's "herstory" reclaimed in unique, experiential event

(March 4, 2005 – Lake Worth) Some of the world's most influential women overlooked by historians will come to life on March 31st at Palm Beach Community College in Lake Worth. "In Celebration of Women—Her Story" will span both local and national women's history as well.

PBCC student actors will portray such forgotten women as Aspasia of Miletus who taught philosophy to Socrates and Pericles; Aishah Bint Abi Bakr, one of Mohammed's wives who insisted women be educated (and he agreed); Artemisia Gentileschi, an Italian artist who was forbidden to paint but her work hangs today in the Louvre; Elizabeth Flynn, an Irish immigrant who was jailed for fighting passionately for decent wages and working conditions for women and children; Hroswitha, a 10th century German writer from whose work William Shakespeare "borrowed" and more.

The event will resemble "an ancient fair, with a tie-in to contemporary women," said Lake Worth resident Emily Oliver, who has organized the student actors. "Something will be happening in almost every nook and cranny of the Humanities building," Oliver said, including:

- poetry readings
- live vocal and instrumental music
- local authors
- women artists exhibiting and creating their work
- a tapestry of local women leaders by the Middle School of the Arts
- women's organizations in the community
- multimedia presentations on "Women who Changed America" by the feminine psychology class

The actors portraying women in history will be dressed in period costume and mingle throughout the building, Oliver said. They will

periodically give three-minute monologues and answer questions from the audience about their characters. "They will have to know their characters through and through and become them," she said. The student actors are doing in-depth research on their characters.

Oliver chose the historical women she discovered while researching the language of "institutional misogyny" for her master's thesis. "In Celebration of Women—Her Story" takes place from 5-7 p.m. in the Humanities building, and the public is invited free of charge. The event is sponsored by the Crossroads program in collaboration with the PBCC diversity committee in Lake Worth, theater department, Student Services, the feminine psychology class and the American Association of Women in Community Colleges. To find out more, call Bobbi Marsh at 561-868-3603.

Please note: The College will be closed for Spring Break from March 7-13.

Media contact:
Toni Wolf
College Relations & Marketing Specialist
(561) 868-3129
wolf@pbcc.edu