

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Beach Community College honors six professors for outstanding teaching

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Aug. 24, 2005) Six Palm Beach Community College professors have received the Gimelstob Professor of the Year Award for excellence in teaching.

Professors Tunjarnika Coleman-Ferrell, Lyndon Johnson, Nancy McDonald and Gisela Diaz and Adjunct Professors Betty Gray and Tomas Pena were chosen by their peers from a pool of 81 nominations submitted by students, faculty and staff.

The nominees were judged on five criteria: delivers clear and easy-to-understand instruction; is well organized and manages time effectively; promotes interest, enthusiasm and active learning; uses various techniques, methodologies and technologies and engages in student and student success-related activities.

The annual PBCC awards were renamed last year in honor of Herb and Elaine Gimelstob. The Boca Raton couple's generosity helped establish the Gimelstob Faculty Award Endowment.

Professor Tunjarnika Coleman-Ferrell, Ed.D., has been teaching education in Boca Raton for nine years. She earned her associate's degree at PBCC and her subsequent degrees at Florida Atlantic University where she teaches doctoral courses in educational research and measurement and evaluation.

Professor Lyndon Johnson has been teaching math and computer science in Belle Glade for four years. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Talladega College and a master's degree in computer engineering from Florida Atlantic University.

Professor Nancy McDonald began working at PBCC in 1989 as an adjunct faculty evaluator in Palm Beach Gardens and currently teaches English at that campus. She holds a bachelor's degree in astronomy and English and a master's degree in English from Western Kentucky University.

Professor Gisela Diaz teaches psychology and child growth and development in Palm Beach Gardens. She came to PBCC eight years ago from Miami Dade Community College where she taught psychology for three years. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Florida and a master's degree in psychology from Florida State University.

Adjunct Professor Betty Gray has been teaching theater appreciation in Boca Raton for about eight years. She holds a bachelor's degree in speech and drama from Virginia Commonwealth University and a master's degree in speech and drama from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Tomas Pena worked as an adjunct instructor of math in Boca Raton for five years before taking a math learning specialist position this term. He earned his associate in arts degree at Palm Beach Community College and received his bachelor's degree in computer information from Florida Atlantic University.

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