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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Network donates \$12,000 to Palm Beach Community College

The money will help nursing students in Belle Glade

(Belle Glade, Fla. - Nov. 4, 2005) - The Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Network has donated \$12,000 to Palm Beach Community College to provide stipends for the 12 students currently enrolled in the Practical Nursing program in Belle Glade.

The stipends will allow the students to pay for anything from books and tuition to transportation and childcare.

"PBCC is excited to have community partners to help fill nursing vacancies in the Glades area. The unrestricted stipend awards to students can provide resources for items such as transportation and child care that will help sustain them through their program," said Jacqueline Rogers, dean of health sciences and occupational education. "The burden of paying these expenses often requires students to work more hours when they need to concentrate on their practical nursing training."

The Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Network, Inc. (LORHN) was established in 1994 as a non-profit corporation designed to provide for the special and specific needs of the residents, visitors, and businesses in the Lake Okeechobee area; with extended services to Glades, Hendry, Okeechobee, Western Martin, and Western Palm Beach counties.

"I think it's a wonderful collaboration," said Marilyn Leeds, executive director of LORHN. "We're looking for future collaborations in other areas where we can help others in the community get the education they need. With our assistance we'll have more health care providers in the area."

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