

PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
College Relations and Marketing
4200 Congress Ave. Lake Worth, Florida 33461-4796
tel: 561-868-3122 fax: 561-868-3123



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Beach Community College Begins Teacher Certification Program

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Dec. 9, 2005) Palm Beach Community College now offers professionals with non-education bachelor's degrees the opportunity to change careers while also helping to fill Florida's critical need for teachers through the Teacher Certification Program, with classes beginning Jan. 5, 2006.

This program, established by the 2004 Florida Legislature, prepares those with non-education bachelor's degrees to transfer into K-12 teaching careers. Candidates for this program must meet subject area requirements, have a minimum 2.5 grade point average, interview with a program coordinator and complete a self assessment for teaching. This program is also open to current teachers working with a three-year temporary certificate.

The program is comprised of seven courses and two field experiences (21 credit hours) which will help students develop the competencies and skills needed to succeed in the classroom. Program completion will qualify the student for state teaching certification. Most students will complete the course work in one year or less.

Florida is projected to hire 25,000 to 35,000 teachers per year for the next three years yet only about 6,000 education majors graduate from Florida universities each year. That disparity in numbers prompted the Florida Legislature to look to the community colleges to professionally and efficiently retrain college graduates to meet this critical need.

Registration for Spring term is open until Jan. 4, 2006. For more information or to register for classes, call the Institute of Teacher Education (561) 868-3823, or visit us on the Web at www.pbcc.edu/TeacherEd.

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Media Contact

Gwenn Adams
College Relations and Marketing Specialist
(561) 868-3950