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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Palm Beach Community College to award about 1,000 degrees this fall**

### **Melissa Benson, Palm Beach County's 2004 Middle School Teacher of the Year and a PBCC alumna, will be among the speakers at Commencement Dec. 20**

(Lake Worth, Fla.—Dec. 14, 2005) Palm Beach Community College will award about 1,000 degrees at its Fall Commencement Dec. 20 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

The commencement ceremony for graduates of the associate in arts, associate in science and associate in applied science degree programs will be held at 2 p.m. A separate commencement ceremony to spotlight graduates of the certificate and diploma programs will be held at 10 a.m.

Melissa Benson, a 1991 PBCC graduate who was named Palm Beach County's 2004 Middle School Teacher of the Year, will conduct the alumni induction ceremony at the afternoon ceremony. Benson is a language arts teacher at Bak Middle School of the Arts. Jane Fisher, a graduate of PBCC's Surgical Technology program, will be the alumni speaker for the morning commencement ceremony.

The two students chosen from among their peers to address their classmates in the degree programs are: **Christina Silk Villegas** of West Palm Beach and **Abby Frias** of Boca Raton.

Silk Villegas is a 2002 graduate of Santaluces High School. She will receive an associate in arts degree in radiography. She plans to continue her education by specializing in a nuclear medicine in a program offered jointly through PBCC and Indian River Community College.

Frias enrolled at PBCC in 2004 after graduating from Boca Raton Community High School. She is the president of the Florida Future Educators of America and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She will receive an associate in arts degree. She

plans to continue her education at Florida Atlantic University and major in elementary education. Her goal is to become a kindergarten teacher and eventually a principal in Palm Beach County.

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