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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBCC selected as finalist for national curriculum award

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Jan. 6, 2006) Palm Beach Community College’s “Career Pathway” curriculum model is a finalist for a prestigious national award to be announced later this month.

PBCC has been chosen as one of 10 finalists in the Instructional Programs and Services category of the National Bellwether Awards. The College will participate in the final phase of competition at the Community College Futures Assembly Jan. 21-24 in Orlando.

The Bellwether Awards annually recognize outstanding and innovative programs and practices that are successfully leading community colleges into the future. The instructional category recognizes programs or activities to foster or support teaching and learning.

The College realigned its curriculum into the Career Pathway Model to allow students to seamlessly progress through career pathways. Students can start in clock-hour based instruction and transfer that learning into credit-based Associate in Science degrees. Along the pathway, students can use exit points to employment with recognized certificates.

“We realized that while class enrollment was up, our student degree completion rates were dropping,” said Dr. Ginger Pedersen, dean of curriculum assessment and research at PBCC. “Students were creating their own programs of study by taking just the courses they needed to gain employment or the promotion they desired. We now have 27 certificate programs that can lead into degrees.”

This five-year project entailed realigning programs, creating more recognized exit points and effectively communicating the changes to the students through print and Web media.

The program’s success earned its nomination for the Bellwether Award. The 10 finalists in this category will present their program to the Bellwether Selection Committee, composed of their peers in community colleges, and winners will be announced at the national assembly.

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