

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Assistance with Big Money for College

(Belle Glade – January 31, 2006) One hour can mean big money for college-bound students when they attend Florida’s first College Goal Sunday, Feb. 19 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center at Palm Beach Community College’s Belle Glade location.

College Goal Sunday is a free event to assist college-bound students and their families in filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The FAFSA can be intimidating, and research shows this is especially true for first-generation and minority students who are college-bound. Financial aid experts will be available to assist students in English, Creole and Spanish.

“Research shows that many families feel they can’t afford a college education for their children, even though millions of dollars in financial aid are available,” said Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Education Chancellor David Armstrong. “The College Goal Sunday program was designed to show families that higher education is within their reach.”

Often, students do not apply for financial aid because they think they are ineligible, or they do not understand student financial assistance regulations and procedures. The best way to determine eligibility is to apply using the FAFSA. At the very least, this application can qualify the student for a low-interest loan but they may also be eligible for grants, scholarships and work study.

“Many students and their parents have difficulty applying for funds,” Dr. Beverly Sermons, director of outreach and access for the Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Education, said. “With College Goal Sunday we’re going to make it easier by giving them two things. The first is more information about the availability of millions of dollars in financial aid and second, expert assistance with filling out the FAFSA to get this money for college.”

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Deadlines for submitting the FAFSA, which is required for any student seeking federal and state financial aid, can be as early as March 1. Students who attend College Goal Sunday should bring their 2005 tax return, W-2 and other 2005 income documents as well as their parents' tax documents to complete the application for submission that day. Students who complete their FAFSA at the event will be automatically entered in a drawing for a scholarship award.

For more information visit www.floridacollegegoal.com or call PBCC at 561-868-3330.

Palm Beach Community College, a richly diverse comprehensive two-year institution with a history of achievement since 1933, offers more than 90 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Belle Glade and Palm Beach Gardens. PBCC is dedicated to serving the educational needs of Palm Beach County by providing associate degrees in arts and science, professional certificates, workforce development and lifelong learning.

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