



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 27, 2006

*****Media Advisory*****

Palm Beach Community College to rededicate Britton G. Sayles Social Science Building

What: Palm Beach Community College is holding a rededication ceremony for the newly renovated Britton G. Sayles Social Science Building, named in honor of the county's first African-American college president. A more than 100-pound solid bronze plaque with cast relief bust of Sayles will be unveiled at the entrance wall of the building.

The ceremony will honor Sayles and highlight the \$2.4 million total renovation of the 20,000 square-foot building to provide an enhanced learning environment for students. Former students, employees and friends of Roosevelt Junior College will be special guests at the event. PBCC originally named the building after Sayles in 1993, one year before his death.

When: 11 a.m. Thursday, March 2

Where: At the entrance of the building at PBCC in Lake Worth, 4200 Congress Ave.

Background: Sayles was an esteemed educator in the Palm Beach County school system and a leading community activist. The Washington, D.C. native served for four years as principal of Everglades Vocational High School in Belle Glade before being named principal of Roosevelt High School in 1951.

(More)

In 1958, while retaining his duties as principal of Roosevelt High School, he became the founding president of Roosevelt Junior College, Palm Beach County's first college for blacks. He maintained those dual roles until Roosevelt Junior College was closed in 1965 and its students sent to the mostly white Palm Beach Junior College (now PBCC). He continued his duties at Roosevelt High School for one year before moving through the ranks of the Palm Beach County School System. He worked as an assistant in the department of instruction, area administrative assistant and north area superintendent before retiring in 1979.

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