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Biotech groundbreaking emphasizes links to community

Palm Beach Community College at Palm Beach Gardens to expand biotech education and training

(March 29, 2006 – Palm Beach Gardens) Palm Beach Community College will take a major step forward in its biotechnology program when it breaks ground April 20 on the BioScience Technology Complex at PBCC in Palm Beach Gardens.

The groundbreaking ceremony, which begins at 7:30 a.m., will emphasize PBCC's links to Scripps and other biotech industries, local business, government and education (K-12 and universities) with its "Linking to Discovery" theme. Speakers include Dr. A. Donny Strosberg, infectology professor for Scripps Florida, and Ken Kirby, president of TransDermal Technologies and a PBCC alumnus.

The 81,000-square-foot, \$15 million science complex will feature two buildings connected by a multi-media lecture hall and courtyard. One building will house state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories for the core sciences (biology, microbiology, anatomy and physiology, physics and chemistry). The other part of the complex is reserved for biotech classrooms and labs, environmental science, environmental horticulture and a wellness center.

Last fall PBCC began offering a two-year associate in science degree in biotechnology to prepare entry-level technicians to assist senior research scientists. The Palm Beach Gardens campus also is strengthening its science curriculum for students seeking a bachelor's degree in biotechnology with additional chemistry, biology and botany classes, said Edward Willey, dean of academic affairs. A former faculty member at John's Hopkins University and Medical School, Silvio Arango-Jarmillio, D.V.M., Ph.D., chairs the science department and teaches in the biotechnology program. Dr. Arango-Jarmillio earned his

doctorate in virology, immunology and microbiology from the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

Initially, PBCC joined a consortium with three other colleges to design a prototype science building for the state, thereby saving millions in architectural fees. PBCC's BioScience Technology Complex has an additional biotech wing; PBCC at Lake Worth will break ground May 12 on a 50,000-square-foot science building using the prototype design.

The media is invited to attend the groundbreaking ceremony from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. To find out more, contact Edward Willey at 561-207-5411.

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