

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PBCC Sonography Program Receives Accreditation**

(PALM BEACH GARDENS – May 5, 2006) Palm Beach Community College’s Sonography program recently received accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs through the Joint Review Committee of Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. The PBCC program is one of only nine schools in the state and 142 nationally to hold this accreditation.

“There are no restrictions on who can open a school of ultrasound but when you hire a graduate from an accredited school you know that he or she has gone through a program that has met high educational standards,” Patty Moriano-Braga, director of the Sonography program at PBCC.

Accreditation criteria assess the quality of institutions, programs and services, measuring them against established standards and ensuring that they meet those standards.

The accreditation also means that students can now take the national certification examination offered by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography immediately upon completion of the program. By successfully completing the certification exam, the student will be awarded credentials as a registered sonographer, which is often a requirement for employment.

Another benefit of the accreditation, both to the College and the student, is that it helps in obtaining clinical sites for the students. “Sonography departments are busy and do not want to spend their time on students who don’t have a good didactic foundation. This accreditation is their assurance that our students are held to the highest standards,” Braga said.

The College already has a good hire rate for its graduates, with all of them being hired as sonographers after graduation. That is not surprising since the average annual occupational growth rate for sonography is 4.2 percent in Palm Beach County, faster than the 2.1 percent growth rate for all occupations in the county. That need extends beyond Palm Beach County as well.

A new partnership between Indian River Community College and PBCC will help fill that need in Treasure Coast. Students in that district will now have the opportunity to attend PBCC’s sonography program via distance learning technology. Students in Palm Beach County will likewise be able to enroll in IRCC’s Nuclear Medicine Technology

program and attend classes at PBCC. Classes will be simulcast, allowing students at the remote classroom to have interaction with the instructor and the rest of the class.

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.

For more information on admission to the Sonography program, call Braga at (561) 207-5053 or visit on the Web at [www.pbcc.edu](http://www.pbcc.edu).