

**PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PBCC to expand Talent Search program to eight southern Palm Beach County schools**

**The federally-funded educational program helps put students on the path to higher education**

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Aug. 18, 2006) - Palm Beach Community College has been awarded two federal grants totaling \$440,000 to continue the Talent Search program for another four years and expand it to eight schools in southern Palm Beach County.

The U.S. Department of Education-funded program, designed to prepare students for postsecondary educational opportunities, currently serves 600 students at 10 middle and high schools in Riviera Beach, West Palm Beach, Lake Worth, Belle Glade and Pahokee.

With the renewal of the current grant and with the additional grant, PBCC will more than double the number of students it serves to 1,400. The program will now serve students at Carver, Christa McAuliffe, Congress, Odyssey and Woodlands middle schools and Atlantic, Boynton Beach and Santaluces high schools.

"It's exciting. It demonstrates that there's really a need for the Talent Search program and the TRIO programs overall in this area," said Dr. Richard Dozier, director of Talent Search.

Talent Search provides a variety of services, including academic, career and personal counseling, career exploration and assessment, student financial aid assistance, college entrance information, SAT preparation, college application assistance and college visits, field trips and tutoring. It is open to low-income and potentially first generation college students in grades six through 12.

The College was first awarded a five-year Talent Search grant in 2002 that runs through 2007. Dozier said in the past four years 87 percent of the program

participants have graduated from high school. Eighty percent have gone on to enroll in postsecondary educational programs.

Talent Search is one of four TRIO programs PBCC operates. Others include, Upward Bound, Educational Opportunity Centers and Student Support Services.

Talent Search, Upward Bound and Student Support Services were the original three educational opportunity programs established as a result of the Higher Education Act of 1965. By the late 1960s the term "TRIO" was used to describe the three federal programs. Over the years, TRIO programs were expanded to include Educational Opportunity Centers, Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program and Upward Bound Math/Science.

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