

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Beach Community College names new director to lead Criminal Justice Institute

(Lake Worth, Fla. - Aug. 24, 2006) – Patrick Kelly, who has an extensive law enforcement background, including 13 years as chief of police, will become the new leader of Palm Beach Community College’s police academy.

Kelly was named director of the Criminal Justice Institute after a four-month search that drew more than 40 applications from throughout the country. A seven-member search committee, including three PBCC employees, three local police chiefs and a colonel from the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, recommended three finalists to College administrators. Kelly will begin Sept. 1.

“We’re very pleased and excited to have Mr. Kelly as the leader of our Criminal Justice Institute. He brings a wealth of experience to the position,” said Dr. Dennis Gallon, PBCC president.

As director of the Criminal Justice Institute, established in 1973, Kelly will oversee the training of law enforcement and corrections recruits, continuing education and training for existing law enforcement and corrections officers and the associate in science degree in criminal justice. More than 80 percent of Palm Beach County’s police officers are graduates of the institute.

“Over 30 police agencies and the Sheriff’s Office in Palm Beach County have a consistent need for new officers to meet the increasing population demands and leading edge new training for current officers. I think being director of the academy to meet those needs is going to be very rewarding,” Kelly said. “I’m also very excited about the opportunity to be a part of the College’s plans to build a public safety complex that will house the Criminal Justice Institute.”

Kelly served as chief of the more than 100-employee St. Cloud Police Department in Osceola County for three years before resigning in June. Prior to that, he worked for the Medley Police Department in Miami-Dade County for 23 years, including 10 years as chief.

He says the most rewarding part of his 26-year career in law enforcement in Florida was serving on the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission from 1993 to 2002, the last three years as chairman. The CJSTC creates and enforces rules on hiring, training and discipline of police, corrections and probation officers. He was appointed by late Gov. Lawton Chiles and reappointed by Gov. Jeb Bush.

Kelly holds a bachelor's degree in criminology from Florida State University and a master's degree in human resource management from St. Thomas University in Miami. He has served as an adjunct instructor at St. Thomas University, Barry University and Miami Dade College. He currently teaches online courses for the University of Phoenix.

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