

PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBCC continues to offer free construction classes to Glades area workers

(Jan 12, 2007 – Belle Glade) After a long day of work, most people look forward to going home and relaxing on the couch. However, over the past year, over 40 dedicated individuals have made the decision to spend three nights a week donning hardhats and safety glasses and working with their hands to learn the basics of the construction industry.

The training is particularly significant to the economy of the Glades and the countywide effort to bring unemployed workers from the Glades into a new era of prosperity.

Orientation for the course will be held on Jan. 25 at 5 p.m. at Palm Beach Community College in Belle Glade, 1977 College Drive, CRA, Room 204. The course will then meet three evenings a week through May 2007.

The free class, offered by Palm Beach Community College, is training the people of the Glades to participate in the construction boom those on both Florida coasts predict is inevitable. The students are currently being trained for the “first tier” environmental restoration of the Everglades. Workers for the initial project, known as Acceler8, will build 20,000 acres of water treatment marsh to clean polluted waters and above-ground reservoirs to control water distribution from Lake Okeechobee and storm water runoff. Acceler8 is a state effort that began last year to jumpstart Everglades’ restoration with eight large projects designed by the federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project.

There is no student fee for the course, and all books and materials are provided free of charge. The fast track “Introduction to Construction” course will help students develop or upgrade their skills in the areas of safety, hand tools, power tools, construction math, blueprints, basic rigging, masonry, carpentry, plastic pipe and fitting, and OSHA.

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