

**PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
College Relations and Marketing  
4200 Congress Ave. Lake Worth, Florida 33461-4796  
tel: 561-868-3122 fax: 561-868-3123



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Construction graduates ready to make their dreams come true**

(May 22, 2007 –Belle Glade)- Tool belts overflowing with tools, hard hats, work clothes' vouchers, OSHA cards and certificates are the material items that Palm Beach Community College's Introduction to Construction graduates were given during a celebration in their honor at the Belle Glade Elk's Club on May 10.

While their training and these items gave the students all that they need to find entry-level employment in the construction field, it is those things that cannot be seen or touched that will have the biggest impact on the 30 graduates' lives.

Through classroom lectures and hands-on projects, the students became proficient in the essentials of the labor construction field. During the 168-hour course, they developed skills in safety, hand tools, power tools, construction math, blueprints, basic rigging, masonry, carpentry and plastic pipe fitting.

These newly gained skills both increase the graduates' earning power as well as their confidence. Many of the students, either unemployed or underemployed, are now qualified to find positions working on the many construction projects underway in western Palm Beach County.

The course, offered through a partnership with Associated Builders and Contractor's Institute, is part of a grant that the college received from the South Florida Water Management District to provide job training and workforce development opportunities to residents of the Glades to prepare them to work on the Comprehensive Everglades' Restoration Project.

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**About Palm Beach Community College:** Serving more than 46,000 students annually, Palm Beach Community College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing associate degrees, professional certificates, career and customized training and lifelong learning. Florida's first public community college, PBCC offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

Contact: Kristy Klaus, Grant Program Coordinator, Acceler8, 561-868-3345,  
[klausk@pbcc.edu](mailto:klausk@pbcc.edu)

**Media contact:**  
**Toni Wolf**  
**College Relations & Marketing Specialist**  
**(561) 868-3129**

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**Editor's note:**

**To download a photo, go to:**

<http://www.pbcc.edu/Images/Marketing/ci1.jpg>

*Cutline: Faustin Franconi receives his tools and hardhat.*

<http://www.pbcc.edu/Images/Marketing/ci2.jpg>

*Cutline: Wilner Fertil displays his certificate.*