



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Beach Community College awarded \$1.25 million to continue Upward Bound

(Lake Worth, Fla. – May 23, 2007) Palm Beach Community College has been awarded a five-year \$1.25 million grant to continue Upward Bound, a program designed to encourage youth to finish high school and to get them excited about and ready for college.

U.S. Rep. Robert Wexler's office notified the College that it would receive \$250,000 for five years from the U.S. Department of Education to continue serving students at Forest Hill High School, John I. Leonard Community High School and Palm Beach Lakes Community High School.

Jim Culver, director of Upward Bound, said he was delighted when he received the news. "We have another five years to not only work with our current students academically, but to reach many more who otherwise would not have an opportunity to prepare and eventually enroll in a college of their choice."

C.B. Wohl, PBCC's grants development manager, said the approval of the grant shows the program works. "It shows the need. It shows we're meeting the need."

Upward Bound serves 50 students at a time from low-income families and from families where neither parent has a bachelor's degree. It includes an academic year and a summer component that offer students tutoring, cultural field trips, college visits, a nominal stipend, and instruction in study skills, English, math, science and foreign languages. As part of the six-week summer component, students spend their first week at PBCC for orientation and processing, then for the remaining five weeks they reside in dorms at Northwood University while attending classes and touring different colleges throughout Florida.

PBCC first received funding in 1999 to launch Upward Bound, one of the original three educational opportunity programs created by Congress under the Higher Education Act of 1965. Although they are still called TRIO, there are now seven such programs, including Talent Search, Upward Bound Math/Science, Veterans Upward Bound, Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers and

(more)

the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program. In addition to Upward Bound, PBCC also operates three other TRIO programs: Student Support Services, Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Centers.

“Because of the intensity of the services we provide in math, science, English and language and other motivational and self-development courses, initially some students feel that they are not college material, but with the coaching, counseling and advising, many gain a healthy perspective of themselves and what they can accomplish, and they rise to the occasion,” Culver said.

###

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.

Media contact:

Tabatha B. McDonald
College Relations and Marketing Specialist
(561) 868-3127