

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Booker named new Palm Beach Community College athletic director**

(Lake Worth, Fla. – July 2, 2007) Dr. Willie W. Booker, a former head men's basketball coach at Florida A& M University and Roxbury Community College, has been named the new athletic director at Palm Beach Community College.

Booker begins today and will oversee PBCC's five intercollegiate sports programs in baseball, women's softball, women's volleyball and men's and women's basketball. He was selected after a nationwide search that drew more than 50 applicants. Booker replaces Hamid Faquire who retired last year after 35 years with the College.

"We are happy to have Dr. Booker on board. He is a person who's not only concerned about students as athletes but also helping students to be successful in a global world when their athletic careers are over," said Dr. Quincy L. Moore, vice president of student services.



As FAMU's head men's basketball coach from 1984 to 1993, Booker led the Rattlers to the Mid-Eastern Atlantic Conference (MEAC) Tournament championship in 1991. During his tenure at Roxbury Community College in Massachusetts from 1974 to 1983, he served as director of student activities and athletics of the newly established school and built its athletic program. He also served as the school's first head men's basketball coach. During his tenure, Roxbury's women's basketball team won six state community college championships and seven regional National Junior Community College Athletic Association championships, and the men's team won seven state championships and one regional championship.

Booker said he is excited about the opportunity to lead PBCC's athletics department where the men's baseball team this year was ranked first in the Florida Community College Athletic Association and fifth in the country by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

“I think PBCC has one of the best academic and athletic programs in the state. It’s so much more you can do to enhance the program by bringing additional community and PBCC family support,” Booker said. “I want to strengthen the program by making sure the coaches have the resources they need to succeed as champions.”

Booker has a varied education background, having worked in various administrative, coaching and adult workforce education roles at the K-12, community college and university level. Since 2004, he has been running his own consulting business, Athletic Insurance Management, in Sanford, Fla. while furthering his education. Prior to that, he worked for seven years in Adult Workforce Education for Orange County Public Schools.

He earned his doctorate in 2005 at Temple University in education with an emphasis on sport and recreation administration. He also holds a master’s degree in administration from New Mexico Highlands University and a bachelor’s degree in physical education, health and recreation from Savannah State University.

**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.

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**Editor’s note:** For a picture of Willie Booker, visit [www.pbcc.edu/images/marketing/williebooker.jpg](http://www.pbcc.edu/images/marketing/williebooker.jpg).

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