



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Beach Community College's enrollment climbs as it faces possible budget cuts

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Aug. 28, 2007) – Palm Beach Community College's enrollment is up 5.3 percent this term, and college officials are calling the hike a mixture of good news and bad news.

The enrollment jump comes as PBCC braces for state budget cuts ranging from 4 percent to 10 percent. The cuts are the result of an anticipated shortfall in the state's budget because of lower than expected tax revenues.

PBCC officials do not yet know the extent of the cuts, but they say a 4 percent cut would equal a \$2.1 million reduction in its \$52.8 million recurring state allocation. A 10 percent cut would mean a more than \$5 million decrease.

"The enrollment increase suggests that the College is responding to the education and training needs in our community, but I am concerned about what these potential budget cuts will mean for our institution," said PBCC President Dennis P. Gallon. "I'm not certain that we can continue to maintain an open-door policy and provide a quality education for our students without significantly impacting some aspects of college operations. Our first priority, however, will be to ensure that these looming budget cuts do not impact services and instruction to our students."

PBCC's credit and prep head count is up 3.3 percent or 671 students as of Monday, Aug. 27, the third day of class. The number of credit hours students are taking is up 5.3 percent. While the enrollment increase will generate additional revenue, those funds will not cover the entire cost of serving the additional students because tuition, particularly, in-state tuition, does not cover the full cost of instruction.

PBCC had already sliced \$1.25 million from its proposed 2007-2008 fiscal year budget earlier this year because of the governor's veto of a 5 percent tuition increase for the state's community colleges and universities.

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As cost-saving measures, PBCC has:

- Suspended the development and implementation of new associate in science degree programs in physical therapy assisting, mortuary science, power generation and health information management
- Restricted employee travel, particularly out-of-state travel
- Frozen eight new non-instructional positions
- Put a freeze on major equipment purchases.

PBCC also has established a committee of employees and students to identify other possible ways to cut the budget.

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About Palm Beach Community College: Serving more than 45,000 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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