

PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Giovanni to speak at King celebration at Palm Beach Community College

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Dec. 14, 2007) Acclaimed author and poet Nikki Giovanni will be the keynote speaker at Palm Beach Community College's 9th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast.

The event, themed "Making Dreams a Reality," will be held at 7:30 a.m. Jan. 17 at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza at PBCC in Lake Worth, 4200 Congress Ave. The celebration is free and open to the public. Attendees must RSVP by Jan. 14 by calling (561) 868-3115.



The author of some 30 books for both adults and children, Giovanni is a Distinguished Professor of English at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. Many of Giovanni's books have received honors and awards. Her autobiography, "Gemini," was a finalist for the National Book Award and "Love Poems," "Blues: For All the Changes," and "Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea" were all honored with NAACP Image Awards. "Blues: For All the Changes" reached No. 4 on the Los Angeles Times Bestseller list, a rare achievement for a book of poems. Most recently, "Rosa," her children's picture book about civil rights legend Rosa Parks, became a Caldecott Honors Book, and Bryan Collier, the illustrator, received the Coretta Scott King award for best illustration. "Rosa" also reached No. 3 on The New York Times Bestseller list.

Giovanni's spoken word recordings also have achieved widespread recognition and honors, including her album "Truth Is On Its Way," which was named the Best Spoken Word Album by the National Association of Radio and Television Announcers.

The recipient of 25 honorary degrees, she has been named Woman of the Year by Mademoiselle magazine, The Ladies Home Journal and Ebony magazine, and has received numerous other honors. She is an honorary member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority and has received Life Membership and Scroll from The National Council of

Negro Women. A member of PEN American Center, she was honored for her life and career by The History Makers, a nonprofit educational institution.

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.

Editor's note: For a high resolution photo of Nikki Giovanni, visit www.pbcc.edu/images/marketing/Giovanni_Nikki.jpg.

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