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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

# **170 Supporters of PBCC Attend 'Shifting Sands' Gala in Boca Raton**

## **Chair Yvonne Boice Welcomed NEH Head Dr. Bruce Cole to New Countess de Hoernle Humanities & Technology Building**

(Lake Worth, FL - January 16, 2008) Suellen Mann, executive director of the Palm Beach Community College Foundation, today announced that more than 170 supporters attended last weekend's "Shifting Sands" Gala at the new Countess de Hoernle Humanities & Technology Building at PBCC - Boca Raton.

The special guest speaker at the gala was Dr. Bruce Cole, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, who was personally invited by local business leader and philanthropist Yvonne Boice, who chaired the stellar event. During his presentation, Dr. Cole announced that the NEH was looking to allocate more funds for community colleges across the country.

Gala attendees were given student led tours of the new, four-story, 47,000-square foot, \$11.5 million facility, which houses state-of-the-art technology for classes in the humanities, including architecture, art, music and theatre appreciation, and foreign languages, as well as computer and media labs for students.

"It was so rewarding to see the support of this beautiful building with such a community celebration," said Boice. "It only confirms the dedication that Boca Raton has to furthering higher education in Palm Beach County.

Among the attendees from Washington D.C. at the "Shifting Sands" Gala were Robert Perry, Chair of the National Trust for NEH; Carole Watson, Assistant Chairman/Partnership & National Affairs; and Mindy Berry, Senior Advisor to Dr. Cole.

Local attendees included Boca Raton Mayor Steven Abrams; Palm Beach County School Board member Mark Hanson; Troy McLellan, president of the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce; Countess Henrietta de Hoernele; Dr. Celeste Beck, the former provost of PBCC's Boca campus; and numerous community leaders.

During the official ribbon cutting, Dr. Dennis Gallon, PBCC president, announced that this was just the first of three new buildings being dedicated on various PBCC campuses over the next few months. In fact, the new Countess de Hoernle Humanities & Technology Building is the first new permanent building to be added to PBCC's Boca Raton campus since 1994.

“The Countess de Hoernle Humanities and Technology Building provides an extraordinary learning environment for students and faculty,” said Dr. Gallon. “From the earliest planning stages, the goal was to design, construct and equip the various instructional areas in ways that will enhance learning and support student success. The first-floor conference center also will enable our Boca Raton campus to offer educational programs and events for the community.”

**Palm Beach Community College**, Florida's first public community college, is celebrating its 75th anniversary throughout 2008. The largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, PBCC serves more than 45,000 students annually through its associate degrees, professional certificates, career and customized training and lifelong learning. The College offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

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