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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PBCC Gains State Approval to Offer Bachelor's Degree in Supervision and Management

(TALLAHASSEE – Feb. 19, 2008) The state Board of Education today approved Palm Beach Community College's proposal to offer its first four-year degree, the Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.) in Supervision and Management.

The new PBCC degree also will be the first B.A.S. degree offered by a Palm Beach County institution. It will offer concentrations in business administration, health care administration or public safety administration, all areas in which the projected local demand for bachelor's degree holders is far greater than the supply. Students who first earn an associate degree in these areas at PBCC will be able to transfer into the upper-division courses to work toward the bachelor's degree required for managerial level positions in many fields.

"We are extremely pleased and excited to enter this new phase in the development of the community college," said PBCC President Dennis Gallon, who represented the College at the state board meeting. "With this new degree, we are responding to Palm Beach County's and Florida's growing need for bachelor's degree education. It is a natural extension of our mission to provide accessible and affordable educational opportunities for residents of this community."

The next step for PBCC is to apply to its regional accreditation body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, for approval of the degree level change. The College also will need to hire faculty and staff, secure additional library resources and develop curriculum and schedules. The first upper-division classes in the new degree program are expected to be offered in August 2009.

The state board also approved today a proposal from Broward Community College to offer a bachelor of science degree in education. Eight other Florida community colleges have been approved previously to offer four-year degrees. Nationwide, about 30 community colleges currently offer four-year degrees, a figure that has doubled in the last two years. The state of Florida ranks 46th in the nation in bachelor's degree production, according to the Florida Division of Community Colleges.

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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