



## COLLEGE RELATIONS AND MARKETING

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

# **PBCC Interior Design program gains accreditation from NKBA**

(Lake Worth, Fla. – July 21, 2008) Palm Beach Community College's Interior Design program has met all the requirements for accreditation from the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA). PBCC joins a select group of only 40 institutions across the country whose interior design curriculum meets the educational standards established by the NKBA.

The NKBA accreditation process was created to serve the professional needs of the industry and to ensure consistent, quality education for students who want to become kitchen or bathroom design professionals. Schools seeking accreditation must meet stringent NKBA standards in each of the following four categories: Planning and Design, Construction/Mechanical Systems, Business Management and Products/Materials.

The school must then submit an analysis of competencies as related to these areas of study. An onsite evaluation consisting of classroom observations, a curriculum review meeting with faculty, a presentation of projects, and interviews with students, faculty and administration is conducted.

Programs accredited by the NKBA are evaluated with respect to mission, administration, curriculum, faculty and resources to determine eligibility. Student work samples are evaluated by industry professionals as a subjective measure of the program.

PBCC earned NKBA accreditation by demonstrating that it meets these requirements, which represent the basis of a program the NKBA considers essential for quality education. Students must complete classroom work and internships monitored by the College and make certain that they meet the NKBA's required student competencies. Programs accredited by the association must have an NKBA Certified advisor or faculty member on staff.

"By earning NKBA Accreditation, our Interior Design Program has qualified and been recognized for providing course offerings to include thorough instruction that enables students to specialize in the field of kitchen and bath," said Professor Zenaida Espinosa. "Students are assured on acquiring superior and consistent quality education needed to excel in the kitchen and bath industry."

The NKBA is a non-profit trade association whose mission is to promote professionalism, ethical business practices and provide leadership for the kitchen and bath industry. With more than 40,000 members, the NKBA has educated and led the kitchen and bath industry for 45 years.

**Palm Beach Community College**, Florida's first public community college, is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> 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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