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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Accreditation agency approves PBCC to offer bachelor's degree

(SAN ANTONIO, Texas – Dec. 10, 2008) Palm Beach Community College has been approved by the region's higher education accreditation agency to launch its first bachelor's degree program starting in Fall 2009.

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) approved PBCC's application for a level status change at its annual meeting Tuesday in San Antonio. The SACS action raises PBCC to a Level II institution, allowing the College to offer the new baccalaureate degree in addition to its current associate degrees, college credit certificates and career training programs. The State Board of Education had approved the College's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.) degree in Supervision and Management last February.

"As a Level II institution, Palm Beach Community College will provide even greater educational opportunities and will help to meet the need for managerial personnel with higher education credentials ," said Dr. Dennis P. Gallon, PBCC president. "Students who earn associate degrees to enter the workforce now will be able to continue their education to advance in their chosen fields."

Dr. Sharon Sass, PBCC vice president for academic affairs, said the College has received numerous inquiries from prospective students since plans for the B.A.S. were announced. "There is tremendous excitement that this degree is coming," she said. "We are hearing from many people who thought a bachelor's degree was out of their reach. They are thrilled to know that they can enroll in an affordable, accessible program tailor made to fit their needs."

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The first B.A.S. in Supervision and Management degree offered by a Palm Beach County institution, the new degree program features specialization tracks in business, health and public safety administration. Applications will be accepted beginning in January 2009. For more information on the B.A.S. degree and application procedures, visit the Web at www.pbcc.edu/bas.xml or call (561) 868-4101.

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 46,000 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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