

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Feb. 4, 2009

Media Advisory/Photo OP

PBCC to provide free dental hygiene services for 150 Head Start children Feb. 6

- What:** Palm Beach Community College's Dental Health Services is providing free dental hygiene services to 150 children from Palm Beach County Head Start as part of the national "Give Kids A Smile" program. Students in PBCC's Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene programs will provide oral health exams, dental health lessons, prophylaxis/cleanings and fluoride varnish. Give Kids A Smile was established by the American Dental Association in 2002 and has grown through the years. Last year, more than 480,000 students received treatment at 1,888 locations across the nation with over 47,000 dental team volunteers. This will be PBCC's third year participating in the program.
- When:** Friday, Feb. 6 from 8 a.m. to noon
- Where:** Palm Beach Community College Dental Health Services building, 4200 Congress Ave., Lake Worth
- Why:** Nearly one in four children ages 2 to 11 have untreated cavities in their baby teeth, according to the Centers for Diseases Control. In Florida, only 20.4 percent of children enrolled in Medicaid received any dental service in 2005. Give Kids A Smile helps raise awareness of the issue and the need to build local public and private partnerships to increase access to oral health care to solve this crisis.
- Media:** Professor Marilee McGaughey
Contacts: (561) 868-3759
- Tabatha B. McDonald
College Relations and Marketing Specialist
(561) 868-3127

About Palm Beach Community College: Serving more than 46,000 students annually, Palm Beach Community College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing the bachelor's degree, associate degrees, professional certificates, career 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.