

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PBCC to celebrate spring commencement with two ceremonies

(Lake Worth, Fla. – May 6, 2009) Palm Beach Community College will hold two separate commencement ceremonies to award certificates and degrees to spring term graduates.

PBCC will confer 538 certificates to students in the Post Secondary Adult Vocational (PSAV) and certificate programs at 6 p.m. May 8 at the Duncan Theatre, PBCC at Lake Worth, 4200 Congress Avenue.

The student speaker for this ceremony is Trudi Waldbillig, a 48-year-old career changer receiving a college credit certificate in surgical technology from PBCC. With four children and a background in the printing industry, Waldbillig at first thought going back to school would be impossible. With motivation and her family's encouragement, she is now graduating with a new career and desire to teach in this field.

The alumni speaker for this ceremony is Marie Eubanks, who graduated from PBCC's dental assisting program in 2002. Currently a certified dental assistant, Eubanks is an adjunct instructor at PBCC's dental health services department and a student at Florida Atlantic University studying psychology.

A separate ceremony for those earning an associate in science, associate in applied science or an associate in arts degree, will be held at 1 p.m. May 11 at the South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd, West Palm Beach.

The majority of the degrees earned are the associate in arts transfer degrees, which means that 1,124 graduates have completed the first two years of their bachelor's degrees.

Among those earning associate in science and associate in applied science degrees, registered nurses are the largest group, with 105 graduates—most of whom will go directly to work to ease the nursing shortage at local health care facilities. Dental hygienists are the next largest group of graduates in that area.

The student speakers are Lauren Smarinsky from PBCC's Lake Worth campus and Ekeyah Wallace from PBCC at Palm Beach Gardens. Smarinsky, a Palm Beach County native, is on the president's academic honors list and is graduating from PBCC's dental hygiene program with an associate in science degree with plans to receive a bachelor's degree in health science.

Wallace came to PBCC to study business and became a student trustee and earned the recognition of being on the president's list as well as the dean's list. She will continue her education by studying international business at a university.

Alumni speaker for the degree ceremony is Delsa Bush, chief of the West Palm Beach police department. Bush began her journey at PBCC by earning an Associate in Science degree in criminal justice and a certificate in basic standard police. She started at the department as a road patrol officer in 1983 and was the city's first African American female police officer. Bush is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Lynn University.

New this year, all graduates can sign and take the Green Graduation Pledge at the ceremony by wearing a green ribbon to show their commitment to social and environmental responsibility and awareness. PBCC has joined hundreds of other colleges and universities in an effort to increase conscientiousness about the importance of individual actions and effort to make the world a better place. For more information, visit www.pbcc.edu/greengradpledge.xml.

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.

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