

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PBCC achieves eight national rankings in degrees, certificates awarded

(Lake Worth, Fla. – June 18, 2009) – Palm Beach Community College earned high national rankings in eight categories in *Community College Week's* "Top 100 Associate Degree Producers" listings.

The publication analyzes U.S. Department of Education data to develop its annual lists, examining two- and four-year colleges that award the most degrees and certificates.

The rankings released June 15 and based on 2007-08 data, place PBCC in the top 50 in seven categories, including:

- 6th in the nation in associate degrees in liberal arts and sciences, general studies and humanities, with an 11 percent increase in those graduates over 2006-07.
- 15th nationally in the awarding of associate degrees in all disciplines.
- 30th in awarding associate degrees in nursing, reflecting a 57 percent increase in graduates.
- 42nd nationally for conferring associate degrees in health professionals and related clinical sciences.

With an increasingly diverse student population at PBCC, associate degrees in all disciplines conferred to non-minority, African-American and Hispanic students also grew. Among non-minority students, PBCC ranked 18th with a 6 percent increase. The College also ranked 18th for degrees conferred to African-American students, based on an increase of 13 percent from the previous year, and 31st for degrees earned by Hispanics, reflecting a 26 percent increase.

Graduates in one-year certificate programs in all disciplines increased by 18 percent, earning PBCC a 51st ranking in that listing.

The strength of Florida's community colleges was evident in the *Community College Week* rankings, with seven of the top 15 associate degree producers in all disciplines located in the Sunshine State.

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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