

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Gov. Crist Discusses Biotechnology and Life Sciences at PBCC**

(Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. - July 23, 2009) Florida Governor Charlie Crist visited Palm Beach Community College today, Thursday, July 23, for a round table discussion on biotechnology, life sciences and the importance of the future and current role Florida has in science.

Biotechnology industry leaders from Torrey Pines Research Institute, Max Planck Florida Institute and The Scripps Research Institute gathered at the BioScience Technology Complex, PBCC at Palm Beach Gardens. Other participants in the



“Commercialization of Technology and Life Sciences” discussion represented the Business Development Board, PBCC biotechnology program, BioTools, Inc. - a local instrumentation and pharmaceutical and biotechnology service company - as well as many other industry professionals.

“Research is the engine that fuels innovation,” said Dr. Harry Orf of The Scripps Research Institute. “We would like to have the state recruit the best scientists.”

Some of those future scientists, PBCC Math and Science Institute biotechnology students, also attended the event with the governor, in which he highlighted the impressive biotechnology companies, Florida’s dramatically improved education system and the commitment to Florida’s young people.

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Governor Crist listened to the panel's requests to continue supporting and funding the biotech and spin-off companies to enable Florida to remain competitive, retain the best scientists, and open up many workforce training opportunities and jobs in the state.

"We have a legislature that is committed to continuing the momentum," said Crist, also acknowledging the reputation that Florida has gained for being innovative and on the cutting edge.

PBCC's biotechnology business partnerships include more than 25 different firms. Students participate in unique internship opportunities, which help them develop the skills and gain the experience required for a successful career in the biotechnology field.

An Associate in Arts degree is offered to students who are planning to transfer to a four-year university, and the Associate in Science degree prepares students for entry into employment in the biotechnology industry, research institutions and related industries. College credit certificates are also offered for those already employed in the industry, those who would like to pursue a biotechnology career or have a bachelor's degree in another academic discipline. Continuing education courses are also offered.

For more information on PBCC's Biotechnology program, visit

[www.pbcc.edu/biotechnology.xml](http://www.pbcc.edu/biotechnology.xml).

**About Palm Beach Community College:** Serving more than 49,000 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.

***Editor's Note:***

The above photo can be found at [www.pbcc.edu/images/marketing/GovCrist.jpg](http://www.pbcc.edu/images/marketing/GovCrist.jpg)

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