

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PBCC honors six professors and instructors for excellence in teaching

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Aug. 19, 2009) Palm Beach Community College honored some of its top professors and instructors during convocation Aug. 19 for outstanding and innovative teaching.

The annual Gimelstob Professor and Instructor of the Year Awards were presented at the annual Convocation to three full-time and three part-time faculty members who teach in PBCC's credit or Post Secondary Adult Vocational (PSAV) certificate programs. They were nominated earlier this year by faculty, staff and students and chosen through an online vote.

Recipients of the Gimelstob Professor of the Year Award are:



- **Dr. Maria Arbona (psychology, Lake Worth).** She began teaching at PBCC part-time in 2001 before becoming a full-time professor in 2002. Prior to teaching psychology, she taught Strategies for College Success.
- **Professor Roy Boulware (math, Palm Beach Gardens).** He began working at PBCC in 1998 as a tutor in the Math Lab and an adjunct instructor at the Lake Worth campus. He became a full-time professor in 2005. He's currently chair of the Mathematics department at the Palm Beach Gardens campus. He also coaches the College's award-winning math team and is the principal investigator for a new National Science Foundation grant the College received this year to help attract more minorities and women into degree programs in science, technology, engineering and math.
- **Professor Bobette Wolesensky (speech communication, Boca Raton).** She began working at PBCC in 2007. She advises the Golden Z Club and co-advises the Phi Theta Kappa chapter. Earlier this year, she received the Technology Innovation Award from the Florida Association of Community Colleges for her use of web conferencing in her online speech classes. She volunteers her time at Boca Raton Elementary School on environmental conservation projects and takes PBCC students with her.

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The Adjunct Professor of the Year Award went to **Jeannine Burgess** who teaches microcomputer applications at PBCC in Lake Worth. As the College's faculty trainer and instructional technology coordinator, she is responsible for helping faculty learn how to use and incorporate technology in the classroom. She has worked at PBCC for 17 years. **Carmen Panai**, who teaches in the Practical Nursing program, was named PSAV Instructor of the Year and **Lois Wachtel**, an adjunct instructor for the Early Childhood Education programs, received the PSAV Adjunct Instructor of the Year Award.

The awards, which include a monetary gift and a gold medal, are named in honor of Herb and Elaine Gimelstob, a Boca Raton couple whose generosity helped establish the Gimelstob Faculty Award Endowment.

"The process reaffirms to me the excellence that we have in teaching and learning at this institution," said Dr. Sharon Sass, vice president of academic affairs. "These people are nominated because of their creativity, their making learning interesting and fun, for being there for the students and being passionate about what they do. We're able to reward that through the Gimelstob Professor and Instructor of the Year Awards."

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.

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Editor's note: To obtain a copy of the above photo, please contact the Office of College Relations and Marketing. Pictured from left are Dr. Maria Arbona, Jeannine Burgess, Roy Boulware and Bobette Wolessensky.