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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Palm Beach Community College to become Palm Beach State College

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Sept. 8, 2009) Palm Beach Community College trustees voted tonight to change the school's name to Palm Beach State College, marking a new era in its 76-year-old history.

"This is a significant moment for PBCC," Dennis Gallon, PBCC president, said after the District Board of Trustees monthly meeting. "The board's decision is about more than a name. It is about recognizing the changing needs of our students, community and workforce and changing to meet those needs, while reaffirming our commitment to an open door to higher education."

Trustees already had voted in June to change the College's name to reflect its new bachelor's degree offering, but they delayed action on the name to give a college-wide committee representing staff, faculty, students, alumni and trustees an opportunity to study the issue and make recommendations.

The College also sought input from the community, faculty, staff and students through an online survey in April, which showed that 77.8 percent of the 1,790 respondents agree that PBCC should change its name. Just over 40 percent favored Palm Beach State College as the new name. Palm Beach College, with 34.3 percent of the votes, was the second top pick.

The College is aiming to have the name change effective in January, but it plans to immediately begin promoting that the change is coming. It has not yet been determined whether the College will change its colors, mascot or slogan, but the committee will continue to meet and make additional recommendations.

"I'm happy with the name change. The time is right," said Trustee David Talley.

PBCC began offering its first Bachelor of Applied Science degree in supervision and management this fall with tracks in health, public safety or business administration. Five hundred students have been accepted into the program, and more than 340 are enrolled in courses this fall. This is far more than the 100 students College leaders expected when they sought approval from the State Department of Education and the

Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools last year to offer the degree. The College now is seeking state approval to offer two more bachelor's degrees — a Bachelor of Science in nursing and a Bachelor of Applied Science in information management technology.

PBCC is among 14 of Florida's 28 community colleges now offering bachelor's degrees, and most of them have dropped "community" from their name.

This is the second time PBCC has changed its name since it was established in 1933. It first changed from Palm Beach Junior College to Palm Beach Community College in 1988.

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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