

Palm Beach State College honors four at King celebration

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Jan. 20, 2010) –A university president and a local organization whose founder recently gained national recognition for his work to help homeless veterans were among the four recipients of this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Awards presented by Palm Beach State College.

Honored were:

- **Wilson G. Bradshaw**, Ph.D., a graduate of then-called Palm Beach Junior College who is now president of Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers
- **Sharon Gill**, CEO and founder of Oasis Compassion Agency in Greenacres that has served more than 4,200 families, representing 12,000 adults and children, since opening in 2003.
- **Erin Hayes**, a Palm Beach State College student who, as president of the Delta Omicron chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society at the Lake Worth campus, introduced Cause of the Month, in which PTK would give an entire month to researching and raising awareness and funds to support a specific cause, such as hunger and poverty.
- **Faith,* Hope*Love*Charity**, Inc. a nonprofit organization whose co-founder, Roy Foster, recently received a CNN Hero Award for his work to help homeless veterans through Stand Down House and other services offered by the nonprofit organization.



The annual awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions toward improving the lives of others, particularly the underserved, in such areas as education, diversity, race relations, health services, social justice or economic empowerment. The honorees were chosen by a committee of Palm Beach State students and employees and community leaders after a nomination process open to community.

Sheila Johnson, CEO of Virginia-based Salamander Hospitality, philanthropist and Black Entertainment Television co-founder, was the keynote speaker at the College's 11th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast Jan. 14 where the awards were presented.

For more information on the honorees, visit www.palmbeachstate.edu/mlk.xml.

Serving more than 49,000 students annually, Palm Beach State 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. Established in 1933 as Florida's first public community college, it offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

Editor's note: Please contact the Office of College Relations and Marketing for a high resolution copy of the photo.

In the photo: The 2010 Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award honorees from left are: Wilson G. Bradshaw, Alumnus; Roy J. Foster, Organization (representing Faith*Hope*Charity, Inc./Stand Down House); Sharon Gill, Individual and Erin Hayes, Student.

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