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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Beach State College receives \$50,000 from The Howard E. Hill Foundation for Technical Education Center on Belle Glade campus

(Belle Glade, Fla. – June 23, 2010) The Palm Beach State College Foundation received a major gift of \$50,000 from The Howard E. Hill Foundation of Belle Glade toward construction of the Technical Education Center building on the College's Belle Glade campus.

Howard E. "Doc" Hill was born in Miami in 1932 and at age four he and his family moved to Belle Glade, where his father managed the Hector Supply Company. He graduated from Belle Glade High School in 1950 and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida. Hill obtained his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Auburn University in 1956 and moved back to Belle Glade and established Everglades Animal Hospital.

Dr. Hill deepened his roots in his hometown, expanding into sugar cane, property development, building affordable rental housing, home construction and private lending. He founded The Howard E. Hill Foundation in 1997 and the bulk of his estate was donated to his foundation upon his death in 2007, with the primary goal of helping middle-to-low income families in western Palm Beach County and Hendry and Glades Counties obtain mortgages or loans to either purchase or repair homes.

"Construction and building affordable housing for the Glades was near and dear to Dr. Hill's heart, said Barbara Alston, president of the Foundation. "The Howard E. Hill Foundation is happy to donate to educating students in the area of construction. It is our hope that this addition to Palm Beach State will not only stimulate job creation but help contribute to growth and betterment of the Glades area."

The Technical Education Center is Palm Beach State's first major construction project on the Belle Glade campus in more than 30 years. When completed early this summer, the 21,259-square-foot building will house the criminal justice and agricultural science programs, including the Sugar Technology Institute. Trade programs such as cosmetology, welding, masonry, plumbing and electrical also will be taught in the center.

Most notably, the building will be the College's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) gold-certified building, designed and constructed for sustainability, water and energy efficiency.

In recognition of The Howard E. Hill Foundation's contribution, the construction trades classroom in the TEC building will be named in Dr. Hill's honor.

"This gift truly reflects Dr. Hill's lifelong dream of helping less fortunate individuals from the western communities," said Suellen Mann, executive director of the Palm Beach State College Foundation. "His understanding of the impact education has on a young person's life and the need for improved educational opportunities is undeniable. It is genuinely rewarding to receive this support, knowing how many lives will be transformed due to this generosity."

Serving more than 50,000 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.

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