



Palm Beach State honors six professors and instructors for excellence in teaching

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Aug. 20, 2010) – Six Palm Beach State College professors and instructors began the academic year in the spotlight after being chosen to receive this year's Gimmelstob Student Choice Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

College administrators presented the awards during Convocation Aug. 19 where faculty and staff gathered to launch the new academic year. Classes begin Monday.

Honored were: **Dr. Matilde Roig-Watnik**, professor of anatomy and physiology on the Lake Worth campus; **Dr. Silvio Arango-Jaramillo**, professor of anatomy and physiology, microbiology and biology on the Palm Beach Gardens campus; **Professor Nicholas Larocca**, who teaches English in Belle Glade, and **Professor Andrew Lambert**, who teaches math in Boca Raton. Also honored were **Birgitta Fielder**, an instructor in the Practical Nursing program in Lake Worth, and **Emily Oliver**, who teaches speech communication part-time in Lake Worth.

At the recommendation of a college-wide committee of faculty, the College revamped the awards process this year, allowing only students to nominate and vote for professors who they feel go beyond what is expected to promote student success and inspire enthusiasm for learning. In the past, faculty, staff and students were involved in the nomination and selection process.

More than 900 students nominated professors for the awards. In their nominations, students were required to address their nominee's ability to provide direction and clear explanations, build students' self confidence, develop students' appreciation for the course subject matter; demonstrate how class material applies to the real world and reach students through innovative and creative teaching.

"It was extremely gratifying to know that for the first time we initiated this student-driven process more than 900 students responded, seeking to recognize professors who they believe exemplify excellence in teaching," said Dr. Sharon Sass, vice president of academic affairs. "I was very pleased when I read what students wrote about our faculty

because it just proves again that our faculty do make a difference in the lives of our students.”

The awards, which include a gold medal and a monetary gift of \$500 for full-time faculty and \$250 for part-time faculty, are named in honor of Herb and Elaine Gimelstob, a Boca Raton couple whose generosity helped establish the Gimelstob Faculty Award Endowment.

Serving more than 52,000 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. From the top left are: Dr. Matilde Roig-Watnik, Emily Oliver, Birgitta Fielder, Dr. Silvio Arango-Jaramillo and Nicholas Larocca. Andrew Lambert is not pictured. Please contact College Relations and Marketing for a high-resolution group photo or for Individual photos of the honorees.

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