



COLLEGE RELATIONS  
AND MARKETING

4200 Congress Avenue  
Lake Worth, FL 33461-4796

561-868-3122  
561-868-3123

[www.PalmBeachState.edu](http://www.PalmBeachState.edu)  
[crmarket@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:crmarket@palmbeachstate.edu)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Veterans career training focus of Feb. 26 event

(Lake Worth, Fla. – February 6, 2013) Palm Beach State College and the West Palm Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center will host an event to help qualified veterans take advantage of VRAP—the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, which is part of the federal Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. The VRAP Showcase will be held at Palm Beach State’s Lake Worth campus on Tuesday, Feb. 26, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Education & Training Center’s Pruitt Plaza (adjacent to ETA building), Congress Avenue and Lake Worth Road. It is free and designed for veterans who meet VRAP criteria, including being:

- At least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Unemployed on the date of application
- Not eligible for any other VA education benefit programs
- Not enrolled in a federal or state job training program

At the event, VA staff will discuss the VRAP program, show veterans how to apply, and provide additional information about medical center services. “VRAP is something every qualified veteran should seriously consider as it may help them change their lives,” said Debra Marcelle-Coney, Ph.D., minority veterans program coordinator for the medical center.

Palm Beach State personnel also will be on hand to answer questions about approved programs of study, which VRAP stipulates must train veterans for high-demand occupations. The College offers more than 30 certificate and associate degree programs that qualify for VRAP benefits in fields such as business, computer science, health science, advanced manufacturing and various skilled trades. Veterans also will be able to speak with faculty and tour classrooms and labs. Giveaways and light refreshments will be offered.

Participating veterans may receive up to 12 months of assistance under the VRAP program, which ends on March 31, 2014. For more information about VRAP, visit [www.benefits.va.gov/VOW](http://www.benefits.va.gov/VOW) or call 1-800-827-1000.

For more information about the event, contact Diane Hess, Palm Beach State outreach specialist, at 561-868-3805 or email [hessd@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:hessd@palmbeachstate.edu). Veterans may also contact Dr. Marcelle-Coney at 561-422-5306. Additional information about education benefits for veterans can be found at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/VeteransServices](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/VeteransServices).

*Serving more than 49,000 students annually, Palm Beach State College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing bachelor's degrees, 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.*

*The West Palm Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center provides health care to eligible veterans in a seven-county area along Florida's Treasure Coast. Comprehensive services include medical, surgical and psychiatric inpatient care and outpatient services. The facility serves as a referral center for blind and visually impaired veterans throughout Florida. It is a teaching hospital, providing a full range of patient care services, with state-of-the art technology.*

**###**

**Media Contacts:**

Joyce Edelstein  
College Relations and Marketing Specialist  
Palm Beach State College  
561-868-3129

Mary Ann Goodman  
Public Affairs Officer  
West Palm Beach VA Medical Center  
561-422-8607