

Spanish Language Celebration to be held at Palm Beach State March 26-27

The two-day event includes music, food samplings and presentations on various topics, including immigration

(Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. – March 1, 2013) Musical performances, food samplings and presentations on various topics, including immigration and Spanish art, culture and music, are what attendees can expect at the [Fourth Annual Spanish Language Celebration](#) at Palm Beach State College in Palm Beach Gardens.

The two-day event, themed “Teaching Spanish as a World Language: The Learning Implications in the XXI Century,” runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. March 26 -27 in Room SC 127 in the Bioscience Technology Complex and the Eissey Campus Theatre, 3160 PGA Blvd. It is free and open to the public.

The celebration, chaired by Palm Beach State College Spanish Professor Patricia Betancourt, ties into Spanish Language Day on April 23, which is celebrated largely in Spanish countries in honor of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, Spain’s influential novelist, poet and playwright. He died in Madrid on April 23, 1616. In addition to showing the talents of Hispanics, Betancourt said the festival also is designed to encourage individuals to embrace other cultures. Most of the [presenters](#) are professors and administrators at colleges and universities in south Florida and other leaders in the Hispanic community.

Among the highlights:

- There will be a panel discussion addressing immigration myths and realities from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. March 26. The panelists include local immigration attorney Aileen Josephs; Jupiter Town Councilor Jim Kuretski; Dr. Jeannett Manzanero, director of Palm Beach State’s Kathryn W. Davis Global Education Center; and Charlene Rupert, a Palm Beach State student who immigrated to the United States from Venezuela in 2005.

- Dr. José Luis Suárez-García, a Spanish professor and graduate coordinator at the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, will present “El Quijote: Teoría, Entretenimiento, Imagen Moderna” discussing the key character in Cervantes’ work. The session is from 11 to 11:45 a.m. March 26.
- The Maya Fiesta Marimba band will perform from 1:20 to 2 p.m. March 26.
- Dr. Tim Steigenga, a political science professor and chair of social sciences and humanities at Wilkes Honors College at Florida Atlantic University, and Sandra Lazo de la Vega, will discuss a book they co-wrote, “Against the Tide: Immigrants, Day Laborers, and Community In Jupiter Florida. Steigenga is the co-founder of El Sol Neighborhood Resource Center in Jupiter. The session is from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. March 26.
- Dr. Rene Gonzalez, a professor and director of the Classical Guitar program at the University of Miami, will hold a classical guitar recital from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. March 27.
- Internationally recognized singer [CHARID DE MADRID](#) will perform from 1:45 to 2:30 pm. on March 27 at the Eissey Campus Theatre.

The College began holding the celebration in 2010 after Betancourt, a native of Panama, received a grant from the Eissey Campus Humanities Opportunities (ECHO) Fund. The ECHO grants allow faculty and staff on the Palm Beach Gardens campus to provide innovative educational experiences in the arts or humanities. She received a fourth grant this year.

For the complete schedule and information on the presenters, visit www.palmbeachstate.edu/events/Spanish-Celebration. For more information, contact Patricia Betancourt at 561-207-5050 or email betancop@palmbeachstate.edu.

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.

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