



State Board of Education approves new bachelor's degree concentrations at Palm Beach State College

Project Management and Entrepreneurship added to Bachelor of Applied Science programs; professional certificate also scheduled for fall term start

(Lake Worth, Fla. – April 3, 2013) Based on the needs of local employers and students, Palm Beach State College has developed and received approval from the Florida State Board of Education to offer new bachelor's degree concentrations, commencing with the 2013 fall term on the Lake Worth campus and online.

The new concentration areas will be offered as part of Palm Beach State's existing Bachelor of Applied Science degrees and give students more options to align their degree with career goals. The new offerings are:

- **Project Management and Entrepreneurship** concentrations in the **Supervision and Management B.A.S. program**. These concentrations will be offered along with existing ones in General Management, Health Management and Public Safety Management.
- **Project Management** concentration in the **Information Management B.A.S. program**. This concentration will be offered along with existing ones in Database Administration and Security & Network Assurance (IT Forensics).

In addition, a new **Certificate of Professional Preparation in Project Management** will begin this fall term. The certificate program is for individuals who already have a bachelor's degree and wish to upgrade their skills or change careers.

The certificate and degree concentrations grew out of Palm Beach State's ongoing efforts to provide local employers with the highly skilled talent they need to grow. The College surveyed local businesses, nonprofit organizations and public sector employers including Florida Power & Light Company, Publix Super Markets, AT&T, Forte Interactive, Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches, City of Boynton Beach, City of Delray Beach and others to determine the need for employees with project management and entrepreneurship credentials. Responses showed that 55 percent require personnel with these credentials. Over 75 percent of students surveyed expressed interest in obtaining these credentials. Besides the surveys, Palm Beach State received strong letters of support from stakeholders, including area chambers of commerce, the Palm Beach County Business Development Board and Workforce Alliance. Finally, a county-wide analysis showed that existing degree providers fulfilled only about one-third of the projected need, indicating a role for the College's cost-effective programs.

Global competition is a major factor behind the demand for people with project management skills. Increasingly, an organization's main competitive advantage lies in its ability to operate efficiently. Graduates of the certificate and degree concentrations in Project Management may take the exam for the Project Management Professional (PMP)[®] credential from the Project Management Institute, regarded as the leading industry certification for project managers. Those who have yet to attain the work experience required for the PMP may start by testing for PMI's Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM)[®] credential.

"Project management has its roots in the military and prepares people for delivering things on time, on budget and within scope," says Richard Chance, department chair for the Information Management bachelor's programs. "Project management is about getting a job done and doing it effectively—it's a skill set that applies to any industry or job function."

The competitive business climate also requires entrepreneurship skills. All types of organizations recognize the enormous value of employee innovation at every level. Moreover, students are drawn to the study of entrepreneurship as a way to develop skills that will allow them to be self-sufficient and operate their own businesses.

"When we see a down economy, people turn to entrepreneurship—it gives you control of your own destiny," comments Dr. C. Thomas Capers, department chair for the Supervision and Management B.A.S. degrees. "At the same time, those entrepreneurial skills are sought after by a lot of the major employers out there, and having such skills makes graduates more attractive to an employer, it gives them a leg up."

The College's Bachelor of Applied Science degrees have been meeting Palm Beach County workforce needs since 2009 by offering associate degree graduates and others a seamless pathway to a bachelor's degree.

Serving 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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