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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Safety Training Center grand opening set for April 26 at Palm Beach State College

New buildings complete largest complex in county for public safety education

(Lake Worth, Fla. – April 17, 2013) Students enrolled in Palm Beach State College’s degree and certificate programs in Criminal Justice, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services and Fire Science will have a new home with the completion this spring of the Public Safety Training Center on the Lake Worth campus.

“Heroes Happen Here,” a grand opening celebration, will be held Friday, April 26 from 8 to 10 a.m. at the center’s new classroom/lab building on the east side of the campus, 4200 Congress Ave. in Lake Worth. The event will include a Presentation of Colors by the Boca Raton Police Services Department Honor Guard, music by the Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services Pipes and Drums Team, and a keynote address by Priscilla A. Taylor, vice mayor and District 7 commissioner for the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. A ribbon-cutting ceremony, continental breakfast and self-tours of the center round out the agenda for invited guests.



Completed over six years, the \$34.9 million, 143,000-square-foot Public Safety Training Center, is now the largest facility of its kind in Palm Beach County. It is comprised of several structures, such as the previously completed 24-target indoor firing range, five-story fire training tower and 4.5-acre defensive driving course (skidpad).

The new buildings, in addition to the three-story classroom/lab building, include a two-story “live-fire” burn building and a two-story tactical gymnasium and Wellness Center. The classroom/lab building incorporates authentic public safety environments, such as a courtroom, jail and booking area, and a 9-1-1 dispatch center, allowing for reality-based learning. All structures were designed by Stephen Boruff, AIA, Architects + Planners, Inc. and built by Balfour Beatty Construction. The skidpad was constructed by Fastrack MCI.

“This center is designed for nonstop student interaction,” said Barbara Cipriano, associate dean for public safety programs. “With the national focus on the collaboration of all branches of public safety, not only will the center house our programs, it will give our students unique opportunities to work together and experience what they’ll find on the job.”

Honoring 9/11 heroes

The center also pays tribute to the police, firefighters and EMS workers who lost their lives on Sept. 11. The walkway leading to the classroom/lab building’s main entry is laid out at an angle of 9 degrees 11 minutes. The path is paved with red brick, representing fire rescue and EMS and accentuated with a line of blue LED lights inserted into the paving representing law enforcement (the “thin blue line”). The commemorative angle is continued up a flight of stairs, ending on the third floor.

At the grand opening, Palm Beach State architecture students will display prototypes of sculptures they created to honor the service and tradition of public safety. The winning prototype will be fabricated and placed on the center’s grounds.

For more information about the Public Safety Training Center grand opening celebration, please call Jean Arthur at 561-868-3993 or email arthurj@palmbeachstate.edu.

Visit www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/PublicSafety to learn more about the College’s Public Safety certificate and associate degree programs. For more information about the Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Supervision and Management, with a concentration in Public Safety Management, visit www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/Bachelor.

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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Editor’s Note: High-resolution photo attached.

Photo Cutline: Criminal Justice recruits march in front of the new classroom/lab building, part of the Public Safety Training Center at Palm Beach State College’s Lake Worth campus.

Photograph: © Palm Beach State College

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