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Palm Beach State College notes passing of benefactor Dr. Kathryn W. Davis

Palm Beach State College students and staff are mourning the loss of Dr. Kathryn W. Davis, a noted philanthropist whose generosity established the College's Global Education Center that bears her name. The center opened in 2007 on the Lake Worth campus.

"My deepest condolences go to the family of Dr. Davis, an amazing woman whose kind spirit has helped thousands of students at Palm Beach State College," President Dennis Gallon said. "We are so fortunate to have known her and for the indelible legacy that she has left at this institution. She was the epitome of humility, and her contributions reminded us of the importance of helping others reach their highest potential despite our differences and backgrounds." Dr. Gallon also added, "It was an honor to have the opportunity to meet this great humanitarian."

Davis died April 23 at the age of 106. In 2007, she initially pledged \$1 million to establish the Dr. Kathryn W. Davis Global Education Center, a comprehensive one-stop education and resource information center. She exceeded her initial pledge, however, and to date has given the College \$1.75 million. Since its establishment, the center has helped approximately 1,942 immigrants living in Palm Beach County and Palm Beach State students integrate and assimilate to the U.S. culture. Of those served and who disclosed their nationality, there are currently 110 different countries reported. To date, 272 students with severe hardships have received scholarships totaling \$547,795. The center is led by Dr. Jeannett Manzanero, director.

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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