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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Beach State honors two outstanding faculty

Klauza and Ray receive Stewart Distinguished Teaching Award

(Lake Worth, Fla. - August 21, 2013) - Palm Beach State College presented Dr. Matthew Klauza and Dr. Magdala Ray with the Stewart Distinguished Teaching Award during the 2013 Faculty Convocation yesterday for their innovation in the classroom.

Klauza teaches English at the Lake Worth campus and Ray instructs Strategies for College Success at the Palm Beach Gardens campus. Each received \$5,000.

Before receiving the award, funded through a grant from The Douglas and Virginia Stewart Charitable Foundation, each submitted a proposal that was chosen from a pool of submissions by a nine-member committee on how they designed and implemented a learning routine that helped their students grow in their critical thinking skills.

Klauza's focused on improving students' writing and analytical skills.

In the lesson, Klauza and his students analyzed the writing approach and strategies of author Mark Twain. Students were asked to interpret the changes Twain made in his work and to reach conclusions about his reasoning for the changes. To promote success, Klauza focused on the elements of composition that generally prove difficult for students.

Ray focused on improving students' test-taking skills.

She designed a lesson based on the 4MAT framework developed by Bernice McCarthy, CIO and founder of About Learning in Wauconda, Ill., as well as the test prediction model of Supplemental Instruction and renowned educator Dr. Mark Taylor's advice for teaching the millennial generation.

Students learned how to predict test questions in a six-step process of preparing for a test. They also applied the process to other applications in college, career and home life. They were then asked to practice that knowledge and skill in a take home test and then apply the lesson to future tests, including the comprehensive final exam.



“The committee and I were so impressed with both candidates’ creativity in helping their students to think outside the box,” said Dr. Anita Kaplan, dean of bachelor’s degree programs. “I would have never thought to dig up Twain’s actual drafts to show students the process he used to write his novels, which helps them understand how writing can and should evolve. With regards to Magdala’s lesson, when you share with students that there are specific strategies one can employ to predict questions on exams, you really get their attention.”

Klauza, a resident of Wellington, has served at Palm Beach State since 2011. Prior to that, he spent 14 years teaching high school English and college composition and literature in Michigan, South Carolina and Alabama.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in English education and earth science education and a master’s degree in English language and literature from Eastern Michigan University, and a doctorate in English from Auburn University.

Ray, a resident of Palm Beach Gardens, has been employed at Palm Beach State since 1987. She has served as an adjunct faculty member, learning specialist, Student Learning Center coordinator, associate dean of academic affairs for communications and math, dean of academic affairs and dean of baccalaureate studies.

Ray holds an associate degree from Palm Beach State, a bachelor’s degree in human resource management and master’s degree in human resource development from Palm Beach Atlantic University, and an executive doctorate in higher education from Florida Atlantic University.

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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