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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Jealous to speak at MLK Celebration at PBSC Jan. 16

The civil and human rights leader made history when he became the youngest NAACP president in 2008

(LAKE WORTH, Fla. – Dec. 19, 2013) Benjamin Jealous, who made history in 2008 when he became the youngest person to serve as president of the NAACP, will be the keynote speaker at the Palm Beach State College 15th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast Jan. 16.

The event will begin at 7:30 a.m. with complimentary breakfast in the MLK Jr. Plaza on the Lake Worth campus, 4200 Congress Ave. The program begins at 8:15 a.m. It is free and open to the public.

The College will present four Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards. The honorees are: **Estella Pyfrom** (Individual), who gained widespread attention and was named a Top CNN Hero this year after spending her own retirement money to establish “Estella’s Brilliant Bus,” a mobile unit that travels throughout Palm Beach County providing computer access and instruction to hundreds of underserved youth; **George Gentile** (Alumni), a landscape architect and planner who has served the community by his participation in numerous organizations and charities, including serving as co-founder and past president of the Juvenile Diabetes Association of Palm Beach County and **Nephtalie Jean** (Student), a Palm Beach State College student who volunteers her time for various organizations, including the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. **People Engaged in Active Community Efforts** (PEACE) will be honored in the Organization category for its work to bring together large numbers of people to hold political and economic systems accountable around serious issues of injustice affecting low income and marginalized populations in the county.



Jealous, 40, began his career at age 18 opening mail at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He has been a leader of successful state and local movements to ban the death penalty, outlaw racial profiling, defend voting rights, secure marriage equality, and free multiple wrongfully incarcerated people. Under his leadership, the NAACP, the nation's oldest civil rights organization, experienced its first multi-year membership growth in 20 years and became the largest community-based nonpartisan voter registration operation in the country. A builder of robust coalitions, Jealous brought environmentalist organizations into the fight to protect

voting rights and convinced well known conservatives to join the NAACP in championing the end of mass incarceration. He will be stepping down from his post at the end of 2013.

For more information on Jealous, the honorees and the celebration, visit [www.palmbeachstate.edu/MLK](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/MLK).

*Serving 48,000 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.*

**Editor's note:** Please contact College Relations and Marketing for a photo of Ben Jealous and the honorees.

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