

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Summer programs for high school graduates offer free tuition and books at Palm Beach Community College

Deadline to apply is May 28

(May 2, 2003 – Lake Worth, FL) When high school graduate Tunjarnika Coleman-Ferrell enrolled in the Fast Break summer scholarship program in 1990, she never dreamed that her professors at Palm Beach Community College would someday be her colleagues. Four degrees later, including a doctoral degree in educational leadership, Coleman-Ferrell is now the department chair for education, health sciences and physical education at PBCC. She credits Fast Break with giving her a head start at college.

Fast Break allows 100 recently graduated high school seniors in Palm Beach County to enroll in one summer course in math, reading or English without paying for tuition and books. A similar program, Summer Bridge, pays the cost of two courses for 150 students who need remedial courses in English, reading and math to prepare for college-level classes. Both programs provide workshops, free tutoring and guest speakers to help students make the transition from high school to college.

“It’s important to obtain as much exposure as possible to a college/university setting prior to committing to a full-time program,” Dr. Coleman-Ferrell said. “Fast Break introduced me to different career paths, an overview of college and academic subjects you could enroll in. College wasn’t just sink or swim; it wasn’t a rude awakening. Just because you’re academically inclined doesn’t mean you’ll be a success. Fast Break acclimates you to other things besides academics.”

Monique Anduze, a student at Emory University in Atlanta who attended Fast Break in 2001, said the program helped her “prepare for college, adjust to the workload and know what was expected of me.”

“I got a feel for college, and the staff was very supportive and helpful,” Anduze added.

“Our goal is to create a nurturing educational environment for students who otherwise may be forgotten,” said Trina Wagnac, Fast Break coordinator.

The deadline to apply for Fast Break or Summer Bridge is May 28. To qualify for Fast Break, you must have a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) and be a resident of Florida. There is no GPA requirement for Summer Bridge. To find out more, call Trina Wagnac at (561) 862-4335 or e-mail her at wagnact@pbcc.edu To find out more about Summer Bridge, call Tom Ferazzoli at (561) 207-5335 or e-mail him at ferazzot@pbcc.edu