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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Glades area youth learning to preserve Everglades at environmental camp in Belle Glade

**30 middle schoolers will tour Everglades National Park,
Biscayne Bay and Florida Keys**

(Belle Glade, June 4, 2003) With a grant from the South Florida Water Management District, Palm Beach Community College will offer the environmental science "Panther Camp" for the first time at its Belle Glade location. Thirty rising seventh, eighth and ninth graders from Glades Day, Lake Shore Middle and Pahokee Middle schools will learn the importance of the KOE watershed (Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee, Everglades) from June 9-28.

The students will tour or camp out at sites for Kissimmee River research, the Everglades National Park, Biscayne Bay and the Florida Keys, learning from experts in ecology, environmental sciences and technology. The camp will provide hands-on opportunities to interact with the environment, including tours by boat, tram and snorkel. The camp curriculum will integrate culture, history, art and technology in a fun environment. Panther Camp personnel also hope to promote interest in careers in environmental and physical science and technology.

The students were chosen from western Palm Beach County because of the future ecosystem restoration projects that will occur there. The camp's objective is to foster knowledgeable ambassadors for the good of the land and the environment. Panther Camp is free and runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays. For more information, contact Diana Barboni, grant program coordinator for environmental studies and community outreach, at (561) 868-3345.

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