



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS 10<sup>TH</sup> LARGEST PRODUCER OF ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREES IN U.S.**

(Lake Worth, Fla. —June 27, 2003) – Out of the nearly 1,200 community colleges across the country, Palm Beach Community College is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest producer of associate in arts degrees, according to rankings published this week by a national education publication.

The rankings are based on a *Community College Week* analysis of 2001-2002 fiscal year data from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. They show that PBCC awarded 1,528 associate in arts degrees that year, up 6 percent over the previous year.

The results published June 23 show that while PBCC provides a variety of workforce and job training programs and services, the associate in arts degree remains its largest program. With an associate in arts degree, students are guaranteed admission into a Florida public university.

“We want our community to know that workforce training is growing at PBCC, but it is not our only emphasis. We are committed to providing a strong academic program that challenges our students and gives them the foundation they need to transfer to and excel at the universities,” said PBCC President Dennis P. Gallon, Ph.D.

The national rankings also show that PBCC is excelling in other areas. PBCC ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the number of total associate degrees awarded; 34<sup>th</sup> in the number of associate degrees awarded to minorities; 35<sup>th</sup> in the number of associate degrees awarded in health sciences and 46<sup>th</sup> in the number awarded in nursing.

#### **About Palm Beach Community College:**

Palm Beach Community College, a richly diverse comprehensive two-year institution with a history of achievement since 1933, offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Belle Glade and Palm Beach Gardens. PBCC is dedicated to serving the educational needs of Palm Beach County by providing associate degrees in arts and science, professional certificates, workforce development and lifelong learning.

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