

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **PALM BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE LAUNCHES NEW CRIME SCENE TECHNOLOGY DEGREE THIS FALL**

(Lake Worth, Fla. —June 27, 2003) Palm Beach Community College is launching a new Crime Scene Technology degree program this fall, the first of its kind in Southeast Florida.

The program is not limited to those with law enforcement backgrounds. It is open to anyone who can handle a career behind the yellow tape, locating, collecting and identifying physical evidence used to help solve crimes and catch criminals.

“There’s a terrific need for crime scene technologists,” said Paul Friedman, coordinator of the PBCC Crime Scene Technology program. “The field has grown by leaps and bounds.”

After completing the 64-credit hour associate in science degree, the graduate can work as a crime scene technologist, evidence technician, medical examiner investigator, medical investigator, insurance investigator, legal investigator, forensic technician, forensic paralegal, crime scene investigator or laboratory technician.

Students will learn everything from how to properly collect and preserve physical evidence and reconstruct crimes and vehicle accidents to how to photograph crime scenes and prepare exhibits for trial.

PBCC developed the program in response to a need by local law enforcement officials, law firms and medical examiners for more professionals with extensive training in forensics and crime scene investigation. Recruits in PBCC’s police academy take some related coursework, but not the extensive training required of crime scene technologists.

“Law enforcement administrators recognize the importance of physical evidence. It’s becoming what’s called real evidence, and jurors understand it,” Friedman said. “We’re taking all of the training available and compiling it into one degree program. Now we’ve got a program where students can hit the ground running when they graduate.”

For people who already hold degrees but want to make a career change, PBCC also is offering college credit certificate programs in which students take only the 28-credit hour core courses of the program.

For more information about the program, call (561) 868-3406.

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