

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY

PBCC summer programs stem rising cost of college with free tuition and books

Motivational author Robert Roots, freshmen will speak at awards ceremony

(Aug. 1, 2003 – Lake Worth) Freshmen from the free tuition summer programs Fast Break and Summer Bridge at Palm Beach Community College will speak about their experiences at an awards ceremony Aug. 14. The programs for recent high school graduates include free tuition, books and tutoring and enrichment workshops that help students make the transition from high school to college.

Eight of the 115 freshmen who participated are receiving additional scholarships to PBCC; they'll be available before the 6 p.m. ceremony at the Atlantis Country Club, 190 Atlantis Blvd. Author, entrepreneur and business consultant Robert Roots, a former police undercover agent in Manhattan, will speak on embracing accountability. The PBCC summer students will receive a copy of his book, "Prepare for the Wolf."

Fast Break participants enroll in one summer course in math, reading or English. Summer Bridge pays the cost of two courses for students who need remedial courses in English, reading and math to prepare for college-level classes. The programs are available at all four PBCC locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

The summer enrichment workshops focused on careers and job resources, student support services at PBCC and college financial aid.

"We experience a 75-80 percent retention rate (at PBCC) for the summer scholarship participants," said Trina Wagnac, Fast Break coordinator. "The remaining 20-25 percent usually transfer to four-year universities in the fall."

The awards ceremony is not open to the general public due to space limitations. For more information, call Trina Wagnac at (561) 862-4335.