Rich in tradition and protocol, an investiture is an academic ceremony that has symbolized the pursuit of knowledge for centuries. It is defined as the “formal ceremony of conferring the authority and symbols of high office.” In addition to this historic purpose, today’s colleges and universities view investitures as opportunities to welcome a new era in the life of the institution and to celebrate as a community.

A presidential investiture includes an academic procession of the institution’s own faculty as well as delegates from other colleges and universities. Marchers wear the colorful academic regalia of their own institutions. Interspersed with musical interludes, the event includes greetings from members of the college, the higher education community and government and others leaders.
THE INVESTITURE OF

Ava L. Parker, J.D.

FIFTH PRESIDENT of PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

March 2, 2017
4:00 P.M.

Watson B. Duncan III Theatre
Lake Worth, Florida
MUSICAL PRELUDE

CALL TO ORDER
Sydney Kitson, Chairman and CEO, Kitson & Partners

PROCESSIONAL
Commencement March

INVOCATION
Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr., 11th Episcopal District of the AME Church

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS
Palm Beach State College Law Enforcement Academy Color Guard

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Palm Beach State College Quartet
Patrick Kolta
Michael MacMullen
Carlos Marin
Ryan McKenzie

Greetings

COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS
Dr. Eileen Holden, President, Polk State College

GOVERNMENT
Madeline Pumariega, Chancellor, Florida College System
Paulette Burdick, Mayor, Palm Beach County
Bobby Powell, Jr., State Senator, District 30

STATE UNIVERSITIES
Dr. John Kelly, President, Florida Atlantic University

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES
Dr. William M. B. Fleming, Jr., President, Palm Beach Atlantic University

BUSINESS
Mark Bellissimo, Managing Partner, Wellington Equestrian Partners LLC
Chris Nielsen, Founder, Levatas
Eric Silagy, President and CEO, Florida Power & Light Company

ALUMNI
Clarence E. Anthony, Executive Director, National League of Cities

Alma Mater & Panther Cheer
Led by Palm Beach State College students Patrick Kolta & David Hernandez

STUDENTS
David Hernandez, Student Trustee

FACULTY
Nicholas Larocca, President, United Faculty of Palm Beach State College

DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Charles K. Cross, Jr., Chairperson
INVESTITURE of the PRESIDENT

DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Carolyn L. Williams, Trustee
Assisted by Trustees Charles K. Cross, Jr., Wendy S. Link, Barbara Miedema and
Dr. Dennis P. Gallon, President Emeritus

INVESTITURE ADDRESS

Ava L. Parker, J.D., PRESIDENT

Gift Recognition
OF JAN WINKLER & HERMINE DREZNER

CLOSING
Yvonne Boice, Palm Beach State College Foundation Board

BENEDICTION
Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein, Temple Israel

RECESSIONAL
Reception immediately following the ceremony in the Campus Commons
Palm Beach State College President Ava L. Parker leads Palm Beach County’s largest higher education institution with a strategic approach emphasizing innovation, student success, and business and community collaboration. Parker is the first female president in the history of the institution, which opened in 1933 as Florida’s first public community college. Under President Parker’s leadership, the College has opened a fifth campus, improved student success rates and increased support for the College from both public and private sources. PBSC also has set enrollment records, with the highest fall enrollment in the College’s history achieved in Fall 2016.

An esteemed educational leader at the local, state and national levels, President Parker serves on the Advisory Committee of Presidents of the Association of Community College Trustees. She also is the support councils liaison for the Association of Florida Colleges’ Council of Presidents. Before joining Palm Beach State, President Parker was executive vice president and chief operating officer at Florida Polytechnic University, the state’s first public university focused on applied research in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields. She served for more than a decade on the Florida Board of Governors of the State University System, including serving as board chair; she also served on the University of Central Florida’s Board of Trustees and was general counsel at Edward Waters College.

Parker’s leadership extends beyond the educational realm. She is on the board of directors of Orchid Island Capital, a publicly-traded specialty finance company. She is a member of the Women’s International Leadership Forum and a member of Leadership Florida Class XXI. She also served as president of the Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association. The South Florida Business Journal has named her to its 2017 Power Leaders List, and she was profiled recently in the Florida Leadership publication.

Active in community organizations, Parker is on the board of directors of the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, the Economic Council, the Central Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce, where she also serves on the Strategic Planning Committee. She is a member of the West Palm Beach Chapter of the Links, and she was honored as a female leader by the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church. In high demand for her motivating and inspiring presentations, she has recently been the featured speaker for the Urban League, Palm Beach County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, Scholastic Achievement Foundation of Palm Beach County, Executive Women of the Palm Beaches, American Association of University Women, Women’s Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County, Leadership Palm Beach County and the West Palm Beach chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.

Earlier in her professional career, Parker was a partner in the Jacksonville law firm of Lawrence & Parker, general counsel for the 11th Episcopal District of the AME Church, assistant general counsel for the state Department of Transportation, and assistant public defender in Miami-Dade County.

A native of Santa Rosa County in Northwest Florida, Parker earned her B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Florida. She and her husband, Joe Gibbons, are the parents of twins, Bailey and Parker.
Academic Mace

The Academic Mace is a descendant from weapons in ancient and medieval times that were carried by bodyguards. Over time, the mace became a symbol of peaceful leadership, and academic maces represent the authority that has been invested in the president by the college’s Board. The mace is carried in processions by a high official or a representative of the Governing Board. At Palm Beach State College, the mace is carried at every commencement by the faculty member with the longest tenure at the College. The Palm Beach State College mace is a tinted glass flame. The College seal is embedded in this glass flame, symbolic of scholars igniting the quest for knowledge. At the base of the flame are golden pillars proclaiming various areas of study pursued at the College.
Medallion

In the Middle Ages, persons in leadership positions often wore Chains of the Office that they held. Many college and university presidents wear these specially designed presidential chains and medallions on ceremonial occasions, as a symbol of the embodiment of the power, authority and autonomy vested in them by the institution.

The medallion created for the President of Palm Beach State College includes a cast of the seal of the College. Around the links holding the seal are platelets with the name of each former president of Palm Beach State College. At the moment during the ceremony when the new President is formally invested with the presidency, she will immediately don the medallion for the fifth president. She will continue to wear the medallion at commencements, academic convocations and any other ceremonial events requiring academic regalia.
Academic ATTIRE

The academic attire worn at today’s investiture ceremony is based on a history of tradition which began in medieval Europe. At a time when the general type of clothing worn was the robe or gown, individual rank or wealth was indicated by colors and materials. As trades, professions, guilds and universities developed, distinctive variations came into being to identify the various members’ individual affiliations.

Universities gradually modified the gowns, capes, hoods and caps into distinctive forms to identify an individual’s level of academic achievement. In the 1890s, American colleges and universities agreed upon a somewhat uniform application of the academic regalia. Typically, scholars with the bachelor’s degree wear the unadorned black robe. Those with the master’s degree also wear a hood lined with the colors of their college and trimmed with the specific color designated for their academic discipline area. The doctoral degree robe additionally has three velvet bars on each sleeve, and the hood is more ornate.

Faculty and staff members wear the traditional attire of the college or university that conferred their degrees.
From its humble beginnings in 1933 with 41 students in a building next to Palm Beach High School, Palm Beach State College has grown to become the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County. Currently serving 48,000 students annually, the College offers classes at five campuses and online. Over time, the College's mission has become more comprehensive to serve the educational needs of Palm Beach County residents. Palm Beach State College now offers bachelor's and associate degrees, professional certificates, workforce development and lifelong learning.
Establishing Florida’s first public two-year college in the depths of the Great Depression may have seemed like folly in 1933. Large government expenditures were out of the question. Still, civic organizations and local citizens lobbied the County Board of Public Instruction to open a two-year public college for the area’s high school graduates who were unable to find employment and couldn’t afford to leave home to attend a university.

County School Superintendent Joe Youngblood and Howell Watkins, principal of Palm Beach High School, consulted with the University of Florida and the Florida State Women’s College (Florida State University) and based Palm Beach Junior College’s curriculum on that of the two universities. Because of the Depression-era budget, teachers at Palm Beach High School volunteered to teach at the College for free.

John I. Leonard became the first president of Palm Beach Junior College in 1936. By 1948, the College had outgrown its original building and moved to Morrison Field, a retired Air Force base used in World War II. Just three years later, though, the Korean Conflict erupted, and Morrison Field was reactivated. The air base later became Palm Beach International Airport.

In 1951 Palm Beach Junior College moved yet again, to Lake Park Town Hall, where the quarters were so cramped students had to be turned away, and enrollment dropped significantly to less than 200. Chemistry class was held in the jail. The local media dubbed it “the little orphan college,” but the Lake Park location is remembered fondly by its alumni for the camaraderie that existed there. Master English and Speech Professor Watson B. Duncan taught classes in the nearby church and even in the hallway.

Almost five years later the Board of Public Instruction of Palm Beach County donated 114 acres in Lake Worth to the College, and the state gave PBJC $1 million for buildings. The College finally had a permanent home. Harold C. Manor, Ph.D., became president in 1958 and began directing extraordinary growth in enrollment, services and offerings, including many technical and vocational programs.

In 1965, the state legislature ordered that black and white two-year colleges be merged, and the mostly white Palm Beach Junior College and the all-black Roosevelt Junior College became one. Six professors and staff members from Roosevelt were transferred to PBJC, and other faculty members were transferred to the school district.
In the 1970s and 80s the College established satellite centers, then permanent locations in Belle Glade, Palm Beach Gardens and Boca Raton. Edward M. Eissey, Ph.D., president from 1978 to 1996, was the driving force behind the building boom and the name change to Palm Beach Community College in 1988.

Dennis P. Gallon, Ph.D., served as president for 18 years, beginning in 1997. Dr. Gallon expanded the College’s comprehensive mission with more workforce education programs and expanded business and industry partnerships. In 2008, the College received State Board of Education approval to offer its first baccalaureate degree, a Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management. Upper-level courses in this degree program began in 2009, and the College was renamed Palm Beach State College in 2010 to reflect its expanded educational offerings.

Ava L. Parker, J.D., became Palm Beach State College’s first woman president in 2015. Under her visionary leadership, the College has increased enrollment, graduation rates and public and private support. President Parker has launched the Go Bold for Gold! initiative to focus College-wide efforts to attain the state’s highest performance funding levels. Earlier this week, President Parker officiated at the grand opening of the College’s fifth campus in Loxahatchee Groves. Named for her predecessor Dr. Gallon, the campus specializes in innovative health sciences and technology programs.
MISSION

Palm Beach State College, founded in 1933 as Florida’s first public community college, is a diverse, comprehensive institution dedicated to serving the educational needs of Palm Beach County. Integrally linked to the community through strong partnerships, the College provides associate and baccalaureate degrees, professional certificates, workforce development and lifelong learning.

Palm Beach State College’s mission is to create and sustain a dynamic teaching and learning environment that provides a high-quality, accessible, affordable education, preparing students to contribute and compete ethically and successfully in a diverse global community.

Past PRESIDENTS

DR. DENNIS P. GALLON

Dr. Dennis P. Gallon became Palm Beach State College’s fourth president in 1997. During his 18-year tenure, Dr. Gallon spearheaded the College’s expansion by adding an array of workforce training programs, implementing a contemporary technology infrastructure, expanding distance learning opportunities through television and the Internet, and creating partnerships with business, education and other agencies in the community. Before joining the College, Dr. Gallon served for 25 years in a series of faculty and administrative posts at Florida State College at Jacksonville, including four years as a campus president.
**Dr. Edward M. Eissey**

Dr. Edward M. Eissey became the College's third president in 1978, supervising the College's building boom at the Belle Glade, Palm Beach Gardens and Boca Raton locations. As a PBJC alumnus, Dr. Eissey was passionate in his efforts to secure resources to help the College grow to meet the needs of an expanding county. Following Dr. Eissey's recommendation, the Board of Trustees voted to rename the college to Palm Beach Community College in 1988 to more accurately reflect the College's comprehensive mission. In 1990, the Palm Beach Gardens campus was named in his honor.

**Dr. Harold C. Manor**

Dr. Harold C. Manor became the College's second president in 1958, steering the College with a sure hand over the next two turbulent decades. During Dr. Manor's tenure, the College grew steadily in enrollment, staff, course offerings and services to the community, including new class offerings at satellite locations in Boca Raton and Belle Glade. He worked closely with Roosevelt Junior College President Britton G. Sayles to merge RJC with Palm Beach Junior College in 1963. The Library and Learning Resource Center on the Lake Worth campus is named for Dr. Manor.

**Dr. John I. Leonard**

Dr. John I. Leonard was the first president of Palm Beach Junior College serving from 1936 to 1958. A native of Joliet, Ill., the former osteopathic physician also had served as Palm Beach County's elected superintendent of public schools. As PBJC president, Dr. Leonard became its greatest steward, leading the College through tumultuous times and a series of temporary College locations. In 1955, he finally secured a permanent home for the College in Lake Worth. His tireless efforts and his devotion to PBJC earned him the moniker “Mr. Junior College.”
Guest SPEAKERS

Clarence E. Anthony

Clarence Anthony, executive director of the National League of Cities (NLC), has been in the forefront of American politics for decades, culminating with productive presidencies of the Florida League of Cities and the NLC, respectively. A former 24-year mayor of South Bay, he is known as a creative, thoughtful leader and an expert in citizen engagement techniques that build a sense of community within cities. At NLC, Mr. Anthony directs the oldest and largest organization of municipal officials in the United States, representing more than 1,600 cities and towns, as well as 49 state municipal leagues. He has also served in leadership roles for the International Union of Local Authorities and United Cities and Local Governments. He earned his associate degree from Palm Beach State College. He also holds a master’s degree in public administration from Florida Atlantic University.

Mark Bellissimo

Mark Bellissimo is CEO of Equestrian Sport Productions and managing partner of Wellington Equestrian Partners LLC. He is responsible for all operations of the partnership, including Equestrian Sport Productions, LLC that owns and manages the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, considered one of the finest equestrian facilities in the world. ESP operates the world-famous Winter Equestrian Festival, the largest and longest running horse show in the world which attracts almost 6,000 horses from all 50 states and 43 countries and awards over $9 million in prize money, as well as the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival. Bellissimo also is publisher of The Chronicle of the Horse magazine, one of the country’s oldest equestrian publications. In 2014, he was given the Excalibur Award by the Sun-Sentinel for Business Leader of the Year in Palm Beach County. He holds degrees from Middlebury College and Harvard University.

Paulette Burdick

Palm Beach County Commissioner and Mayor Paulette Burdick is proud of being a citizen-politician. She served for 16 years on the Palm Beach County School Board and is past president of the South Florida Consortium of School Boards. In 2010, she was elected to the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners from District 2. A fiscal watchdog, Commissioner Burdick is directly involved with all facets of countywide budgets, construction, the bidding process and collective bargaining agreements, as well as having positive relations with state and federal officials and agencies. In 2013, she was one of just 30 county commissioners in Florida to earn the Advanced County Commissioner certification sponsored by the University of Florida. She is a graduate of Northeastern University.

Charles K. Cross, Jr.

Charles K. “Chuck” Cross is an executive vice president for Seacoast National Bank and serves as chair of the Palm Beach State College District Board of Trustees. He was appointed to the board by Gov. Rick Scott in 2014. Cross previously held various positions with Bank of Florida, including serving as its in-organization CEO in Palm Beach County. In his banking career of more than 30 years, he also has been associated with J.P. Morgan Trust, Wachovia Bank, NationsBank and Barnett Bank. Cross has served as treasurer of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County and chair to the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Florida.
William M.B. Fleming, Jr.

William M. B. Fleming, Jr. was elected the eighth president of Palm Beach Atlantic University in 2012, after serving as interim president for the previous 14 months and as vice president for development since 1992. Under his leadership, PBA has gained significant momentum as illustrated by ratings as a “best” choice in U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review, and inclusion in the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The University has established four Centers of Excellence, and PBA was chosen as a model for community engagement by the NCAA Division II. Fleming earlier served in administrative roles at Wingate University and Guilford College, both in North Carolina. He received his bachelor’s degree in political science from Guilford. Judson University in Illinois presented him with an honorary doctorate.

David Hernandez

David Hernandez is a nursing student at Palm Beach State College and serves as the student representative on the District Board of Trustees for 2016-17. He earlier earned his Associate in Arts degree from PBSC following completion of the Gold Track, the highest level in the Honors College. He has served as president of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, president of the Nursing Students Association, member of the Student Government Association and managing editor of the Beachcomber student newspaper.

Dr. Eileen Holden

Dr. Eileen Holden became Polk State College’s fourth president in 2006. During her tenure, she has led Polk State through a period of unprecedented expansion, including the addition of bachelor’s degrees, dramatic enrollment growth, and increase of its physical footprint with facilities in South Lakeland, Lake Wales, Clear Springs, Bartow and Winter Haven. Prior to joining Polk State, Dr. Holden served as vice president for academic affairs at Broward College and dean for academic affairs at Palm Beach State College. She is a past chair of the Florida College System Council of Presidents and past president of the Florida College System Activities Association.

Dr. John Kelly

When John Kelly was named president of Florida Atlantic University in 2014, he declared his intention to make FAU the fastest-improving university in America; within two years it became clear that goal was within reach. In 2016, the Florida Board of Governors ranked FAU the top-performing public university in the state based on performance-based funding metrics. That ranking was up from second-to-last in 2014. President Kelly oversees an institution that serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students on six campuses along more than 100 miles of Florida’s east coast. He is leading a multifaceted campaign to take the University to national prominence as a center of world-class education, cutting-edge research and transformative community engagement. A former vice president at Clemson University, he holds a bachelor’s degree from Clemson and master’s and doctoral degrees from The Ohio State University.
Sydney Kitson
Syd Kitson is chairman and CEO of Kitson & Partners, a Florida-based real estate company specializing in the creation and development of master-planned communities and commercial properties. A graduate of Wake Forest University, Kitson had a notable career in the National Football League, playing offensive guard for both the Green Bay Packers and the Dallas Cowboys. He began his career in real estate and founded Kitson & Partners in 1999. In addition to serving on the Board of Governors for the State University System of Florida, he is currently on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Florida Council of 100, as well as the current chairman for the Florida Chamber of Commerce.

Nicholas T. Larocca
Nicholas T. Larocca is an associate professor of English at Palm Beach State College and president of the United Faculty of PBSC. His stories and essays have recently been featured in Valley Voices, Per Contra's, The Flagler Review, Outside In Magazine, the Steel Toe Review, South85, and the MiloReview, as well as Rush Hour: Bad Boys (Delacorte Press), Mason's Road, and the Beloit Fiction Journal. His short story “Gestures” was nominated for a 2014 Pushcart Prize for Fiction. He is the recipient of the Robert Wright Prize for Writing Excellence. Professor Larocca earned his M.A. degree from Minnesota State University.

Chris Nielsen
Since founding Levatas in 2006, Chris Nielsen has seen his company grow exponentially in both size and scope, helping it mature from a fledgling local business to a full-service digital agency. Levatas' team of more than 100 professionals merges strategic marketing with transformative tech to drive powerful experiences that connect with today's modern consumer. As creative director, Nielsen fulfills a hands-on role, guiding the creative team and its projects through to development. As the founder, he ensures the company ethos is fulfilled.

Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein
Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein of Temple Israel in West Palm Beach received a bachelor's degree in business from George Washington University, a law degree from California Western School of Law, and a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters degree from Hebrew Union College. She is treasurer of the Palm Beach County Board of Rabbis and is active with the West Palm Beach Mayor's Interfaith Advisory Council. She worked closely with CROS (Christians Reaching Out to Society) to create a neighborhood Food Pantry at the Urban League Community Resource Center. She also works with the MLK Coordinating Committee to facilitate an annual MLK Interfaith Freedom Shabbat Celebration.
Bobby Powell, Jr.

Bobby Powell, Jr., was elected to the Florida Senate in November 2016, after serving two terms in the Florida House of Representatives. He is a professional planner who works as a project manager with West Palm Beach-based Urban Design Kilday Studios. He is a magna cum laude graduate of Florida A & M University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism. He also earned a master’s degree in urban and regional planning from Florida State University. His commitment to community service has earned him honors from many organizations, including the Call to Action Award by the Democratic Black Caucus of Florida; the Most Influential Black Business Leaders Award by Legacy Magazine South Florida; the Distinguished Alumni Award by the Palm Beach County chapter of the FAMU Alumni Association; and the Friend of Free Enterprise Award from the Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.

Madeline M. Pumariega

Madeline M. Pumariega became the Florida College System Chancellor in August 2015. She is proud that the 28 Florida colleges offer flexible programs and schedules that enable residents to pursue higher education regardless of whether they recently graduated from high school or are returning to re-tool for another career path. Her goal is to ensure that all students have a pathway to complete their degree or professional credential. Pumariega previously served as president of the statewide nonprofit Take Stock in Children focused on breaking the cycle of poverty through education. She also served in key roles for 20 years at Miami Dade College, most recently as president of the Wolfson Campus.

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.

Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr. was elected and consecrated the 115th Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1996. After distinguished leadership, ministry and service in West Africa and the mid-Atlantic United States, Bishop Richardson was elected president of the General Board in 2012 and assigned to the Episcopal District that includes Florida and the Bahamas. Prior to his election as a Bishop, he was senior minister of the Bethel A. M. E. Church, Tallahassee, Florida for 18 years. In 1994, he was cited by Tallahassee Magazine as one of the most influential people of that city in the last 15 years.

Eric Silagy

Eric Silagy is president and CEO of Florida Power & Light Company (FPL), a subsidiary of NextEra Energy, Inc., and one of the largest investor-owned electric utilities in the nation. He was appointed president in 2011 and CEO in 2014. He has worked for NextEra Energy companies for more than a decade. For FPL, he served as senior vice president of regulatory and state governmental affairs and as chief development officer, managing all generation development, including solar, natural gas and nuclear energy projects. At NextEra Energy Resources, he served as vice president and general manager of the Southern Region, and vice president of business development. He previously held top leadership roles at Entergy Wholesale Operations and The Wing Group, and was chief of staff for U.S. Sen. J. Bennett Johnston of Louisiana. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Texas at Austin, a Juris Doctor from the Georgetown University Law Center and is a member of the Maryland and U.S. Supreme Court bars.
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18
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Dr. Maria Vallejo  
PBSC Vice President, Growth and Expansion, Provost, Lake Worth Campus

Dr. Jean Wihbey  
PBSC Vice President, Workforce Development, Provost, Lake Worth Campus

Panther Cheer

Panther Proud, Panther Strong, See the Paw! Fear the Claw!
“Hail, Palm Beach State College”

Lyrics by Wesley C. Wells

Music by Allen Webber

\[ \text{J = c. 90-94} \]

Stately

Hail, Palm Beach State College, Our Panther Pledge renew:
Green paths to golden knowledge. Traditions, treasured, true.
Community her core, Our gratitude is due; Steadfast that open door, We proudly stand by you.

13 \text{\textit{a tempo}}

Hail, Palm Beach State College, Traditions, treasured, true!

17 \textit{slightly slower}

Hail, Palm Beach State College, We proudly stand by you!
Special Thanks
To the dedicated people of Palm Beach State College.
Your tireless efforts are appreciated beyond measure.

Office of the President
Ava L. Parker, J.D.
Palm Beach State College
4200 Congress Avenue
Lake Worth, Florida 33461

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