

# PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

## Best Practices for Civic Engagement

### Table of Contents

Center for Applied Ethics	2
Dr. Kathryn W. Davis Global Education Center	3
Student Support Services	4
Educational Programs - Belle Glade campus	5
Educational Programs, Boca Raton campus	6
Student Activities/Volunteer Programs, Lake Worth campus	8
Civic Engagement Initiatives, Palm Beach Gardens campus	11

## **Center for Applied Ethics**

Our Mission: **To build and sustain a culture of ethics in Palm Beach County.** In support of this mission, the Center for Applied Ethics focuses on education, training, research and advocacy. The Center serves Palm Beach County, including government, the private sector and nonprofits.

Funded through the State Legislature, the Center is an outgrowth of local efforts to address the culture of corruption which had infiltrated many of Palm Beach County's institutions both public and private. Key highlights in support of our mission to “build and sustain a culture of ethics in Palm Beach County” include the following items.

### **Third Annual PBC High School Ethics Bowl sponsorship**

The Center was instrumental in securing the initial grant funding to develop and implement the first High School Ethics Bowls in Palm Beach County in 2011. The High School Ethics Bowl is a competitive yet collaborative event in which students analyze and discuss real-life contemporary ethical issues. The 2014 event featured 18 teams from 13 Palm Beach County high schools and over 40 community and business leaders, local government officials, and school district personnel who served as judges and moderators.

### **The Ethics Connections Program**

This program is a three-part ethical empowerment series designed to connect participants with the comprehensive knowledge, skills and abilities to live and work with integrity in today’s rapidly emerging “ethical frontier.” Dynamic changes in technology, science, and an increasingly global society are creating an expanding “gray area” of complex ethical dilemmas beyond our existing laws and policies, or even our own basic understanding!

Navigating this “New Normal” successfully will require a finely tuned moral compass that is intentionally developed and consistently maintained on a regular basis. The Ethics Connections Program offers a path to understanding the role of ethical values in action and developing strategies to apply them effectively to your personal and professional life. (Session titles - Ethical Excellence Seminar, Ethical Lens Inventory, and Giving Voice to Values)

### **Signature series of ongoing Community Ethics Forums**

- Ethics and the New World Order: Culture, Compliance, and the Bottom Line – October 2013. Speaker: Keith Darcy, executive director, Ethics and Compliance Officer Association.
- A Profile of Moral Courage: Ethics in Action – March 2014. Speaker: Denny Abbott, Advocate and Author. This forum focused on the key aspect of moral courage with the inspiring account of one person’s moral dilemma, the defining values of his courageous decision, and how he chose to respond and endure the challenges of his actions.

- Ethics and the Transformation of Healthcare in America – January, 2015. Speaker: Dr. Otis Brawley - Chief Medical Officer and Scientist, The American Cancer Society; Author of “How We Do Harm: A Doctor Breaks Rank About Being Sick in America.”

### **National “Essentials of Ethics Seminar” and LPEC Certification – October 2013**

Presented “Essentials of Ethics,” a 3-day national certification seminar leading to the LPEC (Leading Professional in Ethics Certification), in cooperation with the international Ethics and Compliance Officer Association (ECO).

### **Elected Officials Mandatory Ethics Seminar – New in 2015; January and June sessions**

New Mandatory 4 Hour Ethics Training for Elected Officials to assist with the new legislative Ethics Training requirements in cooperation with the Florida and PBC Leagues of Cities.

### **College and Community Resource - CAE Website**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/cae](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/cae)

Numerous enhancements were added to the Center website including a downloadable app for ethical decision making; links to recordings of each of the speaker presentations from the community forums presented to date for viewing by students, faculty, and the public; a link to a broad collection of professional codes of ethics; the “Top Ten Ethics and Compliance Predictions and Recommendations for 2014”; and a variety of other useful and informative sources for ethics-related organizations and approaches.

## **Dr. Kathryn W. Davis Global Education Center**

The Kathryn W. Davis Global Education Center, created in 2007, is a one-stop education and resource program to help improve the success of foreign-born and international students with varying degrees of prior formal education who are enrolled in credit and noncredit programs at Palm Beach State College.

During the 2013-14 academic year, the Global Education Center in partnership with various community organizations, presented a variety of workshops to help integrate immigrant students into American society.

- Members of the E.Q.U.A.L. club presented their initiatives to promote tuition equity for all in the state of Florida and invited Global Education Center students to join the club.
- The GEC director presented mentoring program guidelines so that each student who is new to the program is matched with a student who has already been at the college longer to guide the new student.
- Isabel Vinent, deputy director of the Florida Immigrant Coalition, gave a presentation titled “Telling your story: Speaking with public elected officials and other decision makers about issues that affect the community.”

- Rachelle Litt, team leader of Organize for America Florida, made a presentation about Navigating the Affordable Care Act of 2014. She gave information for students to reach out to inform other members of the community about access to health care in our county.
- Corinne Miller of the League of Women Voters presented on what offices were being elected throughout the state, voter registration guidelines and deadlines to encourage students to engage others in their community to register to vote prior to midterm elections.
- Aileen Joseph, Esq., Honorary Consul of Guatemala in Palm Beach County, spoke on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (D.A.C.A.) renewal, the Out of State Waiver the Florida legislators voted to approve and the future of federal immigration reform.
- Florence French, field organizer of Enroll America/Get Covered America, presented guidelines on the second year open enrollment period of [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) and PBC health care district access to those eligible.
- Cynthia Arevalo, an immigration attorney, presented on the administration's recent executive order to extend Deferred Action and provide a work permit to undocumented parents of U.S. citizens. The purpose of the workshop was to engage students to disseminate information in their communities so that people are not taken advantage of and fall victim to illegal activity by opportunists who are not qualified to provide those services.

## **Student Support Services**

Student Support Services (SSS)/TRIO Program is a federally funded program at Palm Beach State and began its mission in the Fall 2001. The SSS program serves 170 first generation, low income, and students with disabilities who are enrolled at Palm Beach State College.

- The Mission of the SSS/TRIO Program is to provide intrusive services that effectively create opportunities for optimum student retention, assist students in graduating from their desired program, and offer transfer assistance to 4-year colleges and universities. The SSS environment promotes opportunities for leadership enrichment and positive community involvement and creates social change in the lives of the student, their families and communities.

SSS/TRIO offers encouragement, empowerment and opportunities of engagement that promotes positive outcomes.

- Encouragement: SSS staff strives to influence our students by creating a positive and uplifting environment. We take pride in creating a greater experience for the students served at Palm Beach State College.
- Empowerment: SSS staff motto, "Teach a person to fish and they will be able to eat every day." The SSS/TRiO staff provides our students with opportunities to learn

about the higher education community, skills, knowledge, talents and abilities that it will take to achieve maximum success.

- Engagement: Students participate in welcome back initiatives, Student Achievers Council, debate team, movie nights, birthday celebrations, volunteer opportunities, student government activities, workshops, student leadership conferences, Student Initiative, graduation receptions and the community.
- Outcomes: The 2013-14 Annual Performance Report submitted to the Department of Education provides the following information about the program: Persistence rate 81%; Good Academic Standing 88%, Associate Degree Attainment 56%, Associate Degree Attainment & Transfer from 2-year to 4-year Institution 45% and the program received Prior Year Performance Evaluation (PE) points of 15 the highest received.

The SSS Program provides outside activities to encourage retention.

- Community Involvement: Race for the Cure, Habitat for Humanity, Diamond View Elementary, Aids/HIV Walk, Food Pantry, Paint Your Heart Out, Toys for Tots, Club Rush, Student Convocation, Half-Way Pep Rally, Diversity Kick-off and more.
- The Student Achievers Council and Debate Team contribute to the “out of classroom” activities.

The SSS Program provides and encourages civic and legislative literacy through the SSS Debate Team as part of the SSS /TRIO Programs Student Initiatives.

The SSS Debate Team was established in the Fall of 2012 to give students the following skills, knowledge, and opportunity: to understand the importance of research, reading and staying current on global issues, to promote critical thinking skills, and engage students with opportunities to verbally debate on those issues. The SSS Debate Team has debated on the following topics: Should illegal immigrants be allow to enroll in post-secondary institution? Should American Red Cross lift the ban on homosexual men donating blood? Should the federal government raise the minimum wage to 15 dollars an hour? Should college athletes go through the same admissions process as the general pool? Lastly, should police officers be required to wear body cams?

## **Educational Programs - Belle Glade campus**

Submitted by Kristy Taylor, professor of health education and history

We discuss the importance of voting and civic engagement in my history classes, particularly AMH 2010. We discuss the founding fathers, the principles of democracy, and republicanism. Also, civics discussions are embedded throughout all of my classes since community engagement and social responsibility particularly important to me.

Last term, I discussed the importance of voting with all students, and I provided them with the nonpartisan issues pamphlet from the League of Woman's voters so that they can make informed decisions. I also encourage them to openly discuss concerns about their community, attend community meetings, and we discuss the news daily. In the past, I have invited Susan Bucher, county supervisor of elections, to come on campus and speak to students and register them to vote directly in my class.

## **Educational Programs, Boca Raton campus**

Program: Introduction to American Government course

Duration: Ongoing

Submitted by Terry Randolph, political science professor

- Entire focus of course is on civic literacy. Current issues of direct political importance to students are discussed and applied to the process of learning the functions of each branch of American government.
- Students must learn each step of the process of how a bill becomes a law and know the names of important leaders of the executive, legislative and judicial branches and how to contact them at both the state and national levels.
- All students are required to write a letter to an elected representative on a topic of political importance to students. They are shown the proper format and structure of such a letter, and they are required to research the issue and write the letter in such a way as to try to convince the elected representative to support the view communicated by the student.
- All students are provided with information about and access to TurboVote to get them registered to vote if they are eligible and to keep them informed of upcoming elections, as well as early voting, absentee voting, and polling place information, etc.

Program: Campus Speakers on Political Topics

Duration: Ongoing

- Holding an annual Constitution Day Event open to the campus to highlight the importance of the Constitution in the lives of students. A constitutional issue of current importance is selected as the featured topic, and expert speakers are invited to present all sides of an issue to inform the students of the complexity of such issues and to help them make up their own minds on which position to take.
- Inviting elected leaders and representatives of interest groups to speak to students in open campus forums on issues of current political importance.

Program: Model State Legislature

Duration: Planning began in Spring 2014 and program activated in Fall 2014

- Program is open to all students College-wide who are interested in learning about the legislative process and interacting with elected representatives on issues of importance to students.
- Students are taught the structure and functions of the Florida State Legislature and the process of how a bill is written and passed. Students participate directly in the actual process of working in a legislative committee, writing a bill, engaging in debate following proper parliamentary procedure, and voting to decide the fate of a bill.
- Once students are trained in the legislative process and in the protocol for effectively interacting with elected representatives, they schedule personal visits with actual legislators at the state and local level to present their ideas about government actions they would like to see taken.

Program: Model United Nations

Duration: Planning began in Spring 2014 and program activated in Fall 2014

- Program is open to all students interested in international politics who take INR2002 International Relations class to learn the fundamentals of international relations and the complex workings of the United Nations organization.
- INR2002 students are required to write position papers like those submitted by all participants in Model UN conferences, whereby they must research complex international problems and propose solutions from the standpoint of diplomats of their assigned country, which requires an understanding of that country's history, politics and society.
- A team of students is selected to represent PBSC at a national Model UN conference based on their performance in the INR2002 class. After completing INR2002, further training and practice sessions are conducted with Model UN team members to prepare for participation in Model UN conferences by conducting further research, writing all required position papers, and learning proper parliamentary procedure of United Nations committees.
- Students participating in the Model UN conferences will become deeply engaged in important international topics by simulating the process of UN diplomacy. They interact with students from many other colleges representing the views of countries around the world, broadening their understanding of the diversity of cultures, viewpoints, and historical experiences and emphasizing the need to solve international problems peacefully through diplomatic negotiation.
- Once the basic program is established among students taking international relations classes, other training programs will be considered in order to expand college-wide participation with future team members preparing for and attending local, state, or regional Model UN conferences.

# Student Activities/Volunteer Programs, Lake Worth campus

## Volunteer Programs

- **C.R.O.S Ministries:** Student volunteers have been sorting, stocking and transporting donated food from Lake Worth storage to the Riviera Beach food pantry bi-weekly for the past five years.
- **Diamond View Elementary School** (as part of a collaborative effort between the Adopt-a-School program and Lake Worth Provost Office) has been our adopted elementary school for over 10 years. Faculty, staff and student volunteers have coordinated annual reading events, career days, science/ math fairs, FCAT pep rallies, and food, school supplies and toy donations to the needy children at DVE. Our faculty, staff, and students also serve as voting members of the DVE SACs committee.
- **Boys & Girls Club** of Palm Beach County: PBSC volunteer students from Lake Worth campus mentored and engaged with students in grades 6-12 at the Boys & Girls Club. Student presented the importance of high school completion/ graduation, college readiness, and the benefits of higher education. The middle and high school students asked questions pertaining to the college life, as well as the steps to getting into college.
- **YMCA of Boynton Beach** (in collaboration with PBSC faculty and YMCA board member): Student volunteers assisted in a two-part market-research study conducted by the YMCA. Students assisted in engaging with YMCA summer campers ages 5-14 to answer questions on a survey. Questions were asked to get a better understanding of the campers' state of well-being, mindset, values and outlook. Results will be used to better coordinate the public programs offered to the immediate community served by the YMCA.
- **Student United Way Leadership Conference.** Annual retreat held at the worldwide headquarters in Alexandria, Va. is attended by active student volunteers and staff. The retreat focuses on the income, health, and education. Students attended a briefing hosted in the White House by Paul Monteiro, advisor from the Office of Public Engagement. Students also engaged with Sol Ross, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, U.S. Dept. of Health and Services; Brad Jenkins, Office of Public Engagement; Roberto Rodriguez, Special Assistant to the President for Education, and Raquel Russell, Deputy Assistant to the President for Urban Affairs and Economic Mobility.
- **Alternative Spring Break** (in collaboration with Student United Way Palm Beach Biloxi; United Way of PB County and United Way of Biloxi ): Student participants and advisors traveled to Biloxi, Miss. to participate in a week of service. Joining over 100 students from diverse national colleges and universities, the week was spent working with local agencies working on service projects related to Katrina relief, community habilitation, and beautification in lower Mississippi County.
- **The IMPACT Conference** is one of the largest annual conferences focused on the civic engagement of college students in community service, service-learning, community-based research, advocacy and other forms of social action. PBSC Lake Worth students



attend annually and presented at the 2014 conference held in Valparaiso University (Valparaiso, Ind.) and presented a workshop entitled “Fight for your Right to Be Human” – Issues & Advocacy. The workshop focused on raise awareness regarding the undocumented students with an emphasis on DACA basics and benefits.

- **The Community Back to School Bash (BASH)** is a not-for-profit organization that collaborates with nonprofit organizations throughout Palm Beach County that serve disadvantaged students pre-K through 12 by providing supplies, backpacks, information and resources to empower children to begin the school year with confidence. PBSC student volunteers participate annually for this event by organizing all materials and supplies, registration, and assisting the children with “shopping” for school supplies.

### INTER-CLUB COUNCIL

- **ASPIRA** students mentored and engaged with high school students at Forest Hill High School, presenting the importance of high school completion/ graduation and the benefits of higher education in September 2014. They also, in collaboration with the Campus Vote Project, EQUAL club and YP4, hosted a Voter Education workshop on October 28, 2014. Presented by Gabriela DeGolia, YP4 advocacy associate, the workshop covered the voter processes, voters’ rights and the importance of millennial voters.
- **Christian Fellowship Club** coordinated a personal hygiene drive for PBSC’s own homeless student population. This event was held during Hunger & Homeless Week – November 17 through November 21 and was supported by Student Government Association Lake Worth campus and Association of Florida Colleges Lake Worth chapter.
- **Equal Club** in partnership with The Global Education Center, and The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County presented a lecture by Rosana Gatens entitled "Holocaust, Genocide and the Modern Human Rights Movement." Dr. Gatens is director of the Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education and Associate Faculty Department of Curriculum at FAU. This event took place on November 17<sup>th</sup> and explored the history of the Holocaust and the path to Advocacy and Human Rights.
- **Psychology and Human Services Club** hosts **The Homeless Care Bags** event, an activity held every semester. Faculty, staff and students participate by donating and packaging non-perishable snack foods (peanut butter, crackers, etc. ) and small water bottles to help those in need. The Club along with Gay Straight Alliance also participates annually in the Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk in John Prince Park. There was also a Stand up to Suicide event on November 4. Backpacks and signs were placed in the Student Commons area of the Lake Worth campus. The stories were of friends, family members, mentors, etc. who provided a personal account of the loss of a loved one to suicide.
- **Student American Dental Hygiene Association (SADHA)** students provide dental health screenings and health education during the Caridad Health Fair. The Caridad Center dedicates its work to upgrade the health, education, and living standards of underserved children and families. SADHA also hosts free dental services every semester

for the children in the PBC Headstart program, a team effort of the Public Health Department, Headstart and the Dental Health Services Department at PBSC.

## SGA

- **Senator Open House:** In February 2014, SGA hosted Senator Jeff Clemens. The senator spoke to the students about rising issues in the community and emphasized that all the students are affected by decisions made locally and at the state level. The experience created a physical connection for the students as they were able to ask Senator Clemens unfiltered questions and the responses were “genuine” as described by the students.
- **Voter Registration Initiative:** During the months of September and October, SGA took the initiative to get students informed and registered for the elections. They helped over 76 students register to vote before the November elections.
- **Model Legislature:** SGA members and other student leaders have been participating in the Model Legislature program. The program focuses on teaching governmental structure through a dynamic experience that emphasizes personal engagement. SGA has taken the information learned through these experiences and brought them back to the PBSC campus through various events. SGA had a debate night in which they engaged the student body to discuss major issues on the recent November 2014 elections. SGA has also incorporated mini debate discussions regarding school and local policies, while informing their peers of current issues and potential changes that affect the students and PBSC.
- **Florida College System Student Government Association:** SGA is an active member in the Florida College System Student Government Association (FCSSGA). The organization promotes legislative advocacy and training, leadership development, service learning, promotion of campus activities, and strong citizenship. All of this is done to support the main mission and purpose of FCSSGA which is “to unify the member colleges in order to best attend to the appropriate concerns of the students of the Florida Community College system and serve as a vehicle to communicate these concerns to the Florida Legislative Body.”
- **Leadership Development:** SGA has attended the two leadership conferences in September and November 2014. The students have gained legislature experience, leadership skills, learned vital information which they have brought back to campus and shared with their peers through their activities and meetings. In April 2015, SGA will be attending the FCSSGA conference at the State Capitol which includes meeting state representatives and a rally for important issues affecting all students.

## **Civic Engagement Initiatives, Palm Beach Gardens campus**

The Palm Beach Gardens campus has developed a significant number of initiatives to improve civic engagement and address matters of important public policy for students, faculty, staff and the local community. Among these are:

- **Congress to Campus**

Congress to Campus was founded in 1976 by the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress (FMC). The program pairs former members of Congress – one Democrat, one Republican – to meet with students on college campuses both domestically and abroad. While on campus, the former lawmakers offer the students unique opportunities to learn about Congress. Former members are available to discuss the inner workings of Congress and the federal government and relate their experiences as political leaders in casual or formal class settings.

- **Congressional services**

The Eisey Campus Theatre is regularly used by our district's congressional representatives, most recent having hosted town hall events for former U.S. Rep. Allen West and his successor, Rep. Patrick Murphy.

- **Debates**

The campus regularly hosts candidate debates ahead of primary and general elections. In Fall 2014, the campus hosted the congressional debate between Rep. Murphy and his challenger, former State Sen. Carl Domino.

- **Domestic Violence Panel**

"Perceptions, Perspectives, and Prevention" held on November 19, 2014, was a domestic violence panel discussion. The panel consisted of seven individuals from various professional backgrounds including a sociology professor from Florida Atlantic University, a sergeant with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, criminal attorneys, (felony domestic violence prosecutor and public defender), a representative from the PBSC Counseling Center, the CEO of a domestic violence intervention program, and a survivor of domestic violence. The discussion commenced with a five-question survey presented to attendees that was answered with their cell phones. Survey responses were recorded in real time.

- **Earth Day**

Annual Earth Day activities promote civic engagement through education programs about the environment and matters of public policy such as Everglades restoration. Various state, federal and nonprofit agencies participate through interactive demonstrations, information tables and talks.

- **Florida Model Legislature**

Associate Dean Robert Van Der Velde is a faculty advisor for the Model Legislature program, initiated in Fall 2014 in response to former Sen. Bob Graham's call for increasing civic engagement on our campuses. Over 45 students participated in the initial program, held at the Palm Beach County Commission chamber, in preparation for

a two-day trip to Santa Fe College later the same term to hold a mock legislative session with students from other colleges. The program will culminate in the students' participation in a visit to Tallahassee at the mid-point of the 2015 Legislature session, where students will meet with members of the Palm Beach County legislative delegation, participate in "Rally in Tally," and in the student government association activities.

- **Immigration Reform Panel**

For the past several years, the campus has hosted a panel regarding immigration reform, bringing together local advocates, immigration attorneys, academicians and social service agencies. This well-attended event attracts considerable interest from the local community.

- **Notre Dame Lecture Series**

The Notre Dame Lecture Series regularly focuses on matters of public policy. Sponsored by Adjunct Economics Professor Tom Magill, it brings prominent Notre Dame faculty to campus on topics ranging from social media to climate change, and draws students as well as members of the local community. This year's lecture is "US Constitution: A Workable Document or a Relic of the Past" by Dr. Donald Kommers.

- **Spanish Language Celebration**

The 2015 Spanish Language Celebration will include a presentation by Professor Wendy Adelson from the Public Interest Law Center of Florida State University's College of Law. Adelson is a renowned expert in human trafficking and the author of "This Is Our Story," the 2014 FSU Common Reader book which follows the lives of Rosa and Mila, two young women from different countries who become victims of human trafficking.

- **Teaching Tallahassee**

Similar to the Congress to Campus program, the Palm Beach Gardens campus has developed "Teaching Tallahassee," an opportunity for members of the Palm Beach County legislative delegation to interact with faculty and staff. This program benefits both sides: students and faculty learn about the legislative process from local legislators, and our legislative delegation learns more about what we do at the College. The program, now also replicated at the Boca Raton campus, has hosted Senators Abruzzo (D-25 and minority whip), Clemens (D-27) and Sachs (D-34), and Representatives Hagar (R-89), Kerner (D-87), Pafford (D-86 and minority Leader) and Rooney (R-85).

- **SGA**

The Student Government at Palm Beach State College Palm Beach Gardens campus is member of the Florida College System Student Government Association (FCSSGA). As members, we actively participate in the state-wide efforts to advocate for the appropriate concerns of the students of the Florida Community College system and serve as a vehicle to communicate these concerns to the Florida Legislative Body.

Palm Beach Gardens SGA participates in FCSSGA state conferences and identifies and selects issues to advocate to Florida legislators. Prior to going to Tallahassee for the Legislative Session, the students work diligently, researching legislative activity and following progress of bills. They prepare to present these issues to legislators with advocacy etiquette training, designing a “leave behind” document and practicing with mock meetings in order to present themselves at a level that is appropriate and effective. SGA invite speakers from local political offices as well as college staff and faculty to assist in their preparations. The students reach out to the legislative offices and schedule appointments to meet with selected legislators or staff during their annual advocacy trip during the session. In Tallahassee, they also attend committee meetings, sit in on House and Senate sessions, hold their own mock Senate session and learn about the history of the Florida State Capital. This year-round effort impacts not only those who are on the advocacy trip to Tallahassee, but also those who help gather information.