



PALM BEACH STATE  
COLLEGE

# 2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## Dental and Medical Services Technology Building

**Request: \$16.7 Million**

The current PBSC Dental Health Sciences Building houses the Dental Hygiene AS Program, the Dental Assisting PSAV Program and the Atlantic Coast Dental Research Clinic. Palm Beach State College (PBSC) has the only accredited Dental Hygiene and Assisting programs in Palm Beach County. All graduates have 100% job placement with a growing demand for the profession. The clinic provides advanced training for licensed dentists and hygienists and clinical training for the dental assisting students.

The current building was built in 1962 and has since been renovated in 1999 and again in 2002. It cannot be retrofitted or renovated to meet the technological changes in the profession. In 2008, a Castaldi Report stated that it is more cost effective to demolish and construct a new building than to renovate. During the 2017 Legislative Session, the legislature appropriated \$5 million towards the project. The new building will be placed on the Loxahatchee Groves Campus. It has been on the PECO request priority list since 2008, is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> on this year's list, and is expected to cost a total of \$21.7 million for 60,000 square feet.

## HB 3363 – Opioid Epidemic Training/Workshops

**Request: \$100,000**

Since January first of this year, over 400 lives have been lost in Palm Beach County due to an epidemic taking over the nation – opioid abuse. Palm Beach State College intends to be proactive in responding to the crisis in its own backyard. Providing training and doses of Narcan (naloxone) – a life-saving opiate antidote – to campus security is just the beginning.

The College will create an overdose prevention program to include seminars on substance abuse education and addiction awareness to all incoming students through the *Introduction to College Experience* classes. The program will offer increased course materials and support for the Addiction Studies program and training for faculty and staff. PBSC will offer the community free educational workshops on addiction and overdose prevention. Continuing Education workshops will also be offered to professionals in areas such as mental health, social work, nursing, and public safety. The primary focus of this program will be addiction prevention, harm reduction education, Narcan training and distribution, and connection to health care and recovery services. PBSC has an obligation to provide the community with the necessary educational tools and resources to help combat this epidemic.

## HB 2855 - Coding and Cognitive Technologies Program

**Request: \$250,000**

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there will be a million more computing jobs than computer science graduates by 2020. Coding has become the language of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and PBSC, through its mission, is dedicated to providing a program to assist with this \$200 billion industry. Coding is a major topic of focus around the world. It touches every facet of modern life and is a critical literacy for everyone. Learning to code unlocks creativity, develops problem-solving skills, opens career paths, and builds an understanding of how our world works. Many governments, foundations, and thought leaders are calling for coding programs in education.

To better fulfill workforce needs, this turnkey-ready program would align with the industry and be directly transferrable. Potential areas included in the curriculum are Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Predictive Analysis, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, etc. It will appeal to those with and without degrees, is STEM focused, and will remain flexible by providing a marketable skillset through credentials with the opportunity to lead to a degree. Palm Beach State College has agreed to a \$250,000 match, which will include funding for software license fees, computer lab materials, wiring and network server expenses. The total cost to establish the program is \$500,000.

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