

## Panther PACE

### Pathways for Academic Communities and Engagement

Palm Beach State College first opened its doors in 1933 as Florida’s first public junior college. That year, 41 students attended classes in a building near what was then Palm Beach High School. Today, the College serves over 46,000 students at five locations and offers over 130 programs of study.

Palm Beach State’s QEP, *Panther PACE: Pathways for Academic Communities and Engagement*, was developed over a two-year period and was informed by broad-based engagement in the review of the strategic plan and institutional data, conversations amongst College constituents, and refinement of proposals to select a QEP that is a best fit for what our students need to be successful.

#### **QEP Goal:**

In order to increase student success, Palm Beach State students will connect to College resources, faculty and staff, and fellow students through Academic Community events.

#### **QEP Outcomes:**

1. Students engaging in Academic Community (AC) events will show a 24% increase in levels of College engagement between 2022 and 2027 as measured on the New Student Experience and Student Experience Surveys. Additionally, Palm Beach State will rank in the top 10% in the nation with scores exceeding 61 on “Student-Faculty Interaction” and “Support for Learners” Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) benchmarks between 2022 and 2027.
2. Retention rates will increase and demonstrate progress for students who participate and are engaged in student activities as measured against milestones and targets for periods between 2022 and 2027.
3. Faculty and Staff application of Student Development Theory in student interactions will increase after participating in workshops and Professional Learning Groups for measures against milestones and targets between 2022 and 2027.

The focus of Palm Beach State’s QEP will be to connect students to College resources, faculty and staff, and fellow students using Academic Community (AC) events to increase student engagement, resulting in higher levels of retention. Events will be created intentionally across student lifecycle to connect students to their Academic Community, ensure students explore the possibilities that exist within their community, and support students based on where they are in their degree progress to give them what they need to be successful then and to prepare for their next step. Additionally, faculty and staff involved in the QEP will create workshops that focus on Student Development Theory to invest in the College’s best resource – faculty and staff – to ensure they have opportunities to learn more about how they can support students.