

# Proclamation

## HONORING THE 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

**WHEREAS**, Palm Beach State College was founded in 1933 as Florida's first public two-year college and has continuously served the educational needs of Palm Beach County residents for 90 years, first as a junior college, then as a community college, and today as a state college; and

**WHEREAS**, Palm Beach State College, since opening its doors on November 14, 1933, as Palm Beach Junior College, has grown from 41 local students in three classrooms to 40,000 students from 151 countries and territories, studying on five campuses located in Boca Raton, Belle Glade, Lake Worth, Loxahatchee Groves, and Palm Beach Gardens, and online; and

**WHEREAS**, Palm Beach State College, established during the Great Depression when there was no institute of higher learning in Palm Beach County, is now an economic engine, pumping \$1.1 billion into the county's economy each year; and

**WHEREAS**, Palm Beach Junior College merged with Roosevelt Junior College, in 1965, which was established in 1958 to serve African American students.

**WHEREAS**, Palm Beach State College has been integral to the remarkable growth and prosperity of Palm Beach County. Our graduates—community and business leaders for generations—have impacted every industry and continue to do so today; and

**WHEREAS**, Palm Beach State College, one of the top producers of associate degree graduates in the United States, also offers baccalaureate degrees, professional certificates, career training, and corporate and continuing education; and

**WHEREAS**, with more than 130 programs of study, Palm Beach State College is the county's leading educator of skilled professionals. Career programs span fields such as health care, computer science, business, biotechnology, creative arts, childcare, human services, teacher education, environmental science, landscape management, a wide variety of skilled trades, engineering, electrical power, and public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, Palm Beach State College's mission of providing accessible, student-centered teaching and learning experiences in academic, technical, and lifelong learning to transform lives and strengthen our community is crucial to the vitality of the City of Westlake; and

**WHEREAS**, City of Westlake, Florida commemorates the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Palm Beach State College with appreciation for its vital role as a provider of excellence in education and career training, and as a driver of economic mobility in partnership with our community, Palm Beach County, and the State of Florida.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Westlake, Florida to be affixed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.

  
John Paul O'Connor, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Zoie F. Burgess, CMC City Clerk