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**Press Release**  
**For Immediate Release**

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## **PASCO-HERNANDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE ANNOUNCES WIREGRASS CAMPUS**

Pasco-Hernando Community College (PHCC) has announced plans to build a new campus at Wiregrass Ranch, directly adjacent to Wiregrass Ranch High School in south central Pasco County. The announcement was made on January 22 by PHCC President Katherine Johnson, Ed.D., at the annual Pasco County Legislative Delegation meeting at Wiregrass Ranch High School.

The deeds for approximately 60 acres of property were recorded on January 22, officially completing the donation of land by the Porter family to the college. State PECO (Public Education Capital Outlay) funds have already been allocated for a new campus in central Pasco, a project that has been on the college's long-range plan for over a decade.

"We are deeply grateful to the Porter family for their generous donation of this very valuable acreage," said Dr. Johnson. The Porters share PHCC's vision to provide quality higher education to the residents of this growing region of Pasco County. Their investment will have an immeasurably positive impact on the residents and economy of this community for many years to come."

"Education has always meant a lot to my family," said J.D. Porter, a family spokesman. The campus is a wonderful development for Wesley Chapel and Pasco County. We appreciate the efforts of Dr. Johnson, State Representative Will Weatherford and the other members of our legislative delegation who helped move this project forward."

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The new campus will be a full-service facility that will offer courses toward the Associate in Arts degree, which is transferable to Florida's State College and University Systems as well as Associate in Science degrees and certificate programs. An articulation agreement between PHCC and Wiregrass Ranch High School allows students enrolled in Wiregrass Ranch High School's IT Career Academy to seamlessly transfer to Industry and Technology programs at PHCC.

The College hopes to break ground on the new campus in early 2012, with doors opening in the fall of 2013. The District Board of Trustees will finalize the selection of an architectural firm and construction management companies in a previously completed competitive selections process.

“Years ago,” Porter said, “a one room school house stood on our property that eventually burned down. It will be exciting to see a new college campus take shape in our community, not far from where that school house stood.”

Enrollment at PHCC has been in a high growth pattern for several years, continuously exceeding enrollment expectations. Overall enrollment for the current term is up 18 percent over the same time last year.

PHCC has campuses in Dade City and New Port Richey in Pasco County and a campus in Brooksville in Hernando County. Classes will begin at PHCC's new \$46.4 million dollar, seven building Spring Hill Campus this August.

Pasco Economic Development Council, Inc. works closely with PHCC to promote workforce education programs including degrees, technical certifications, customized corporate training programs, online education opportunities and others.

Pasco-Hernando Community College (PHCC) is a dynamic, learning-centered educational institution, with a faculty and staff who are dedicated to student success, teaching excellence and community service.