FKCC Holds 46th Commencement Ceremony

KEY WEST, FL, May 4, 2012— This evening at 6:30p.m., 109 graduating Florida Keys Community College students will walk across the Tennessee Williams Theatre stage in front of family and friends to receive their diplomas—a milestone moment culminating years of hard work, challenges, and achievements. A total of 113 Associate in Arts degrees, Associate in Science degrees, and certificates will be presented at the college’s 46th Commencement Ceremony.

The program will feature two student speakers, Joshua Arbogast and Gwen Oglesby, both graduating with high honors. Arbogast earned an Associate in Arts degree and has been accepted to Nova Southeastern University where he will pursue a bachelor’s degree in marine science. He is president of the Environmental Club, vice-president of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and was selected to represent FKCC as a member of the All-Florida Academic Team. Also graduating with an Associate in Arts degree, Oglesby is planning to pursue a bachelor’s degree in Recreation and Event Management at the University of Florida. She has served as treasurer for both the Student Government Association and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

The Keynote Address will be delivered by FKCC President Dr. Larry Tyree. This will be Tyree’s last Commencement as President as he is retiring in June after 45 years in the community college industry—spanning eleven colleges, nine presidencies, and service on numerous higher education boards. He previously held the rank of full professor at the University of Florida, where he was also the director of the Institute of Higher Education and the executive director of the National Alliance of Community and Technical Colleges. A community college graduate himself, Tyree was named a distinguished alumnus by each of his three alma maters: Indiana University, the University of Florida, and Pensacola State (formerly Junior) College, where he will again serve as Keynote Speaker at their commencement exercises on Sunday.

FKCC Board of Trustees Chairman Ed Scales will present this year’s “Distinguished Alumnus” award to 1977 marine science graduate Ted Davis. Davis is the founder the Marine Magnet Program at South Broward High School which exposes young people to career choices in the maritime industry and encourages environmental stewardship of the ocean. Each year, he returns to his alma mater with groups of Marine Magnet students to introduce them to the college program that sparked his passion for marine science.

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