



**For Immediate Release**

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## **HCC ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in nation in Associate Degree production**

**Tampa** – Hillsborough Community College is the country's 9<sup>th</sup> leading producer of associate degrees according to a new report published in the June edition of Community College Week. Using data assembled by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics which compared over 1200 community colleges in the United States, HCC awarded a total of 2452 associate degrees during the 2008-09 academic year among two-year colleges. Additionally, over 900 of those degrees or 37% were awarded to minority students making HCC is the 19<sup>th</sup> largest producer of minority degrees in the country- a 16% increase over the prior year.

In discipline-specific rankings, HCC ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the production of Liberal Arts and Sciences associate degrees, 26<sup>th</sup> in the production of all Health Professions and Clinical Sciences degrees, and 29<sup>th</sup> in the production of all associate degrees in nursing.

According to HCC president Dr. Gwendolyn W. Stephenson, "HCC works hard to provide meaningful academic experiences for our students and support services that enable them to complete their program of study. These rankings are a testament to our commitment and focus on student success."

HCC is a comprehensive community college with five campuses located throughout Hillsborough County. HCC offers three degrees: The Associate in Arts (A.A.), the Associate in Science (A.S.) and the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree. The A.A. degree parallels the freshman and sophomore years of a four-year bachelor's degree. In Florida, the 2 + 2 system guarantees graduates with an A.A. degree acceptance as juniors into the state university system. HCC also offers more than 64 A.S., A.A.S. degree programs as well as over 85 certificate and PSAV programs, which lead to immediate entry into the workforce.