



FLORIDA LITERACY COALITION PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Florida Literacy Award Recipients Recognized at 35th Annual Florida Literacy Conference

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (May 2019)—The Florida Literacy Coalition (FLC) hosted its 35th annual Florida Literacy Conference May 1-3 at The Plaza Resort in Daytona Beach. The three-day conference featured over 60 training and professional development sessions for adult literacy tutors, teachers, and program administrators across Florida.

Carrie Stack, founder of the Say Yes Institute, spoke at the opening general session sharing the importance of taking positive, proactive steps to help build confidence and emotional intelligence to maximize success. Denine Torr, Senior Director of the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, gave the closing keynote address, making an eloquent case for the importance of supporting adult literacy and the tremendous impact of such efforts.

This year's edition of the adult learner essay book, *Actually, I Can*, was released at the FLC Annual Meeting. Several of the authors featured in the book shared their stories during the meeting, reading their published essays aloud. The 2019 Florida Literacy Awards were presented on May 3 during a special closing luncheon.

2019 Florida Literacy Award Recipients:

Excellence in Education Award – Literacy Council of Upper Pinellas

Honors an organization demonstrating achievement, innovation, leadership or organizational excellence in support of adult basic education, literacy and/or family literacy education in Florida. This award was accompanied by a grant for \$2,500, sponsored by NorthWest Federal Credit Union.

Flight for Freedom Award – Isabel Gomez, Collier County, Fla.

Honors an adult student who has demonstrated exceptional accomplishment in improvement of literacy or leadership skills. This award was accompanied by two complimentary round-trip airline tickets from Southwest Airlines.

Mary J. Brogan Leadership Award – Ken Horton, Jacksonville, Fla.

Recognizes a Florida resident whose support of literacy exhibits the highest standards of excellence, dedication, leadership, creativity, and accomplishment.

(more)

Outstanding Community Partner Award – Florida Blue Foundation

Honors a community or business partner for leadership or significant contributions in support of literacy at the local, regional, or state level.

Outstanding Literacy Volunteer Award – Mary Derochea, Citrus County, Fla.

Honors a literacy volunteer who has demonstrated exceptional service and commitment in either tutoring or program operations.

For additional information about individual award recipients, please contact Greg Smith at smithg@floridaliteracy.org.

FLC thanks the following conference sponsors that have helped to make this event possible: Platinum Level sponsors include **Florida Department of Education, Wells Fargo, Southwest Airlines, Northwest Federal Credit Union, Florida Blue, and Publix Super Markets Charities**; Gold level sponsor **Dollar General Literacy Foundation**; Silver Level sponsors include **English Discoveries, GED Testing Service, and Daytona Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau**; Bronze Level sponsors include **BurlingtonEnglish and Common Teri Services**.

About the Florida Literacy Coalition

Established in 1985, The Florida Literacy Coalition (FLC) promotes, supports, and advocates for the effective delivery of quality adult and family literacy services in the state of Florida. As a statewide umbrella literacy organization and the host of Florida's State Literacy Resource Center, FLC provides a range of services to support more than 250 adult education, literacy and family literacy providers throughout Florida. Special emphasis is placed on assisting community based literacy organizations with their training and program development needs. For more information about FLC call (407) 246-7110 or visit www.floridaliteracy.org.

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Additional Links:

2019 Florida Literacy Conference Photos -

https://drive.google.com/open?id=15pUcUC7uuLy0tGkx_fbxfcezwylI0L3t