

Highlights from the 2013 Florida Literacy Conference

And the winners are...

The Florida Literacy Awards are an opportunity to showcase the achievements of five outstanding literacy practitioners. The following individuals were honored at the Awards Banquet:

Carla Heimer – Outstanding Literacy Volunteer

Center for Adult Learning Jacksonville Public Library – Excellence in Education Award

Christian Lundy – Flight for Freedom Award

Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas, Inc. – Outstanding Business Partner Award

Mary Whitehurst – Mary J. Brogan Award

A special thanks to Southwest Airlines for sponsoring the event.



(Greg Smith, Christian Lundy, Judy Bradshaw, Janet Chapman, Mary Whitehurst, Alison Hoefler)

The Voices of Conference

The Florida Literacy Conference is an opportunity for professional development, the sharing of promising practices, and formulating relationships with fellow literacy practitioners. It can also be a time for reflection and personal growth, as well as a

reminder of why you continue this work. Check out these reflections from some of the Conference attendees.

One thing I learned at the conference was how we tend to keep students at the 3rd grade level in reading by only teaching the basic words and basic thinking skills. While teaching adults, we need to remember that they are adults and using other materials that are interesting and fun will teach them words, phrases and intellectual concepts that take them outside the box. You can just as easily teach the letter "a" stands for anatomical as "a" stands for apple. It is all in the deliverance. – *Ann Palmer*

Listening to adult learners courageously read their own essays from the adult learner essay book "Believe that You Can" was simply amazing. Each essay was a powerful example of potential, empowerment, perseverance, and opportunity. – *Betsy Stoutmorrill*

I liked that I was able to attend a variety of sessions across different tracks. For example, I attended the session on transitioning from prison to the "outside" given by Leon County Adult Ed, a session on assessing speaking skills in ESOL students and a session on teaching students with learning disabilities among others presentations. – *Maria Palacio*

As a first-time attendee to Florida Literacy Coalition's Open Book Conference, I must say that I was quite impressed with the level of care and compassion participants demonstrated toward their programs, tutors and learners, and students. There were countless items I added to my "things to ponder" list and cannot wait until our board of directors, many of whom were in attendance as well, meet and share ideas about how best to move our organization forward. – *Clarissa West-White*

FLC never fails to have the topics I need as a Program Director to understand up and coming changes in adult education as well as best practices for the current literacy climate. The sessions on the 2014 GED, Immigration Reform, Professional Development and the CBO Roundtable are all sessions that equipped me for my 2013-2014 program strategic planning. With the influential guest speakers, adult learner day and awards ceremony, one cannot walk away completely inspired to keep growing and changing lives one level of literacy at a time. – *Jonel Persinger*