The Conference culminated with the Florida Literacy Awards Luncheon which provided a great opportunity to recognize the outstanding contributions of businesses, programs and individuals working in support of literacy across the state. The keynote speaker was writer Lori Roy, recent recipient of the prestigious Edgar Allan Poe Award for best mystery novel.

In a fun tie in with this mystery theme, Randy Rawls from the Mystery Writers of America, Florida Chapter, presented a donation of $10,000 and announced a new statewide adult learner Mystery Writing Contest.

Congratulations to this year’s Florida Literacy Award recipients:

*Outstanding Business Partner* – Country Federal Credit Union

*Outstanding Literacy Volunteer* – Mick Cole, Citrus County Library System

*Flight for Freedom Award (Student)* – Daniel Davidson, Learn to read of St. Johns County

*Excellence in Education* – Learn to Read Jacksonville

*Mary J. Brogan Leadership Award* – Tracey Barnes, Nassau County Sheriff’s Office

A special thanks to the 2016 Florida Literacy Conference Planning Committee and our Conference sponsors: Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education; Wells Fargo; Southwest Airlines; Publix Supermarkets Charities; Northwest Federal Credit Union; Mystery Writers of America; the St. Florida Blue Foundation; Petersburg/Clearwater Visitors and Convention Bureau; Dollar General Literacy Foundation; and Burlington English.

To see photos from this year's conference, visit our [Flickr page](#).