



## FLORIDA LITERACY COALITION PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Florida Literacy Awards Presented at 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Literacy Conference

Orlando, FL (May 2018) – The Florida Literacy Coalition (FLC) hosted its 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Literacy Conference May 9-11 at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary. The three-day Conference provided over 65 training and professional development sessions for adult literacy tutors, teachers, and program administrators across the state.

Janna Peskett, director of digital content and curriculum design at Mindset Works, spoke at the opening general session and addressed the vital role of a growth mindset, the belief that mastery can be achieved through effort. During the event, Florida Blue Foundation announced the continuation of the Florida Health Literacy Initiative and awarded 14 Florida organizations with \$5,000 health literacy grants.

During the FLC's Annual Meeting, the 2018 Adult Learner Essay Book, *On Our Way*, was unveiled and select student authors read their inspiring stories aloud. The essay book is comprised of more than 200 essays written by adults in various education programs throughout the state, and it is one of FLC's most popular projects.

### Florida Literacy Awards

The Conference wrapped up with the Florida Literacy Awards Luncheon which recognized and honored individuals and organizations supporting local literacy programs in the Sunshine State. Rachel Peric, Executive Director of Welcoming America, gave the keynote address for the event.

This year's Florida Literacy Award recipients include the following:

#### **Excellence in Education Award – S.B. Idea, Inc., Delray Beach, Florida**

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 contribution for \$2,500, sponsored by NorthWest Federal Credit Union.

**Flight for Freedom Award – Marta Miley, Dunedin, Florida**

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 – Sandy Newell, Tallahassee, Florida**

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

**Outstanding Community Partner Award – Dr. Phillips Charities, Orlando, Florida**

Honors a community or business partner for leadership or significant contributions in support of literacy at the local, regional, or state level. The Adult Literacy League (ALL) nominated Dr. Phillips Charities for this award. Kenneth Robinson, President and CEO of Dr. Phillips Inc., took this opportunity to present ALL with a grant for \$100,000.

**Outstanding Literacy Volunteer Award – Charles Cunningham, Bradenton, Florida**

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](mailto: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, Florida Blue, Northwest Federal Credit Union, Publix Super Markets Charities,** and **United Healthcare.** Gold level sponsors include **Dollar General Literacy Foundation and GED Testing Service.** Silver Level sponsors include **Reading Plus.** Bronze Level sponsors include **English Discoveries and BurlingtonEnglish.**

**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](http://www.floridaliteracy.org).

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