

## FLORIDA LITERACY COALITION PRESS RELEASE

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### FLORIDA LITERACY COALITION RECOGNIZES POLK COUNTY RESIDENT WITH LEADERSHIP AWARD

ORLANDO, Florida (May 21, 2010) – The [Florida Literacy Coalition](#) recently recognized Margaret Anne Wheeler with its Mary J. Brogan Leadership Award for exhibiting the highest standards of excellence, dedication, creativity and accomplishment in literacy efforts. The award was presented at a special banquet held during the annual [Florida Literacy Conference](#) in Captiva, Fla.

In all, six awards were presented during the State Literacy Awards banquet. Nominated by READ Polk, Wheeler has acquired a reputation as Polk County’s “literacy queen.” For the past two decades, Wheeler has been at the heart of the county’s literacy network. Her leadership roles have included teaching, administrating and acting as a role model to expand adult literacy efforts in the county.

Wheeler initiated literacy programs in Lakeland’s tri-county area workplaces in the 1990s which resulted in thousands of adult students enrolling in local literacy programs. She co-founded READ Polk, the county’s coordinating council of adult and family literacy programs, and is a ProLiteracy certified master trainer. Currently employed as the community involvement coordinator for Polk County Public Schools, Wheeler supervises 30,000 intergenerational volunteers and serves on the Florida Education Commissioner’s Community Involvement Council.

(more)

“Margaret Anne serves as an inspiration for many of us working in literacy,” said Greg Smith, Executive Director of the Florida Literacy Coalition. “She is a dedicated educator, community leader and advocate for the adult learner.”

Smith and Zelda Rogers, Senior Program Director for Adult Education with the Florida Department of Education, presented the award to Wheeler.

### **About the Florida Literacy Conference**

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual [Florida Literacy Conference](#), “Open Books Open Minds,” took place May 5-7, at the South Seas Island Resort in Captiva, Fla. The conference offered a diverse selection of interactive workshops led by literacy experts on a variety of topics including adult basic education, literacy, English for speakers of other languages and family literacy. Sponsors of the 2010 Florida Literacy Conference included the Florida Department of Education, Dollar General Literacy Foundation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Publix Super Markets Charities, Florida TechNet and Walmart.

### **About the Florida Literacy Coalition**

Established in 1985, The [Florida Literacy Coalition](#) (FLC) promotes, supports and advocates 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 Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center, FLC provides a range of services to support more than 300 adult education, literacy and family literacy providers throughout Florida. Special emphasis is placed on assisting community-based literacy organizations with training and program development needs. For more information about the FLC call (407) 246-7110 or visit [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org).

### **Photography**

Margaret Anne Wheeler

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