



The Florida Head Start Association Announces State Award Winners, Region, and National Award Finalist

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TALLAHASSEE, FL – October 11, 2019 – The Florida Head Start Association (FHSA) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 FHSA Annual Awards:

Parent of the Year – Maritza Vasquez from Orange County Head Start, Orlando
Beating the Odds – Sharlene Singleton from Episcopal Children’s Services, Jacksonville
Teacher of the Year – Jennine Nolan from Hillsborough County Head Start/Early Head Start, Tampa
Staff of the Year – Indra Font from Polk County Public Schools Head Start, Lakeland
Support Staff of the Year – Parameshwari “Rani” Panchanathan from Miami- Dade Community Action and Human Services Department, Head Start/Early Head Start, Miami
Scholarship for Head Start/Early Head Start Staff, Higher Education – Princess Ortiz from Orange County Head Start, Orlando
Corporate Award – Smart City, Orlando

The National Head Start Award State Finalists are:

Aubrey Puckett Memorial Award – Sonya L. Hill from Orange County Head Start, Orlando
Edward Zigler Innovation Award – Orange County Head Start, Orlando
Vanessa Rich Leadership Award – Autumn Tomas from Episcopal Children’s Services, Jacksonville
Ron Herndon Head Start Parent Scholarship – Lara Urdaneta from Orange County Head Start, Orlando

The state award winners were honored during the FHSA Annual Awards Luncheon in Daytona Beach, FL on October 11, 2019.

The FHSA Annual Awards promote excellence in the Head Start/Early Head Start community through recognition of employers, parents, alumni, volunteers and partners who have made extraordinary contributions to their programs and exemplifies the highest quality of standards in their communities. Award winners serve as inspirational leaders to FHSA; they embody the core values of serving children and families and being committed to Head Start. The state winners will progress as Region finalists in their categories. The Region IV Head Start Association will announce region winners. The National Head Start Association will announce National Award winners. For more information about the FHSA Annual Awards, please visit www.FLHeadStart.org.

About FHSA:

The Florida Head Start Association is a non-profit organization working on behalf of the 43,000 children and families Head Start Programs serve in Florida. FHSA has been the voice for Florida's most vulnerable children and families since 1999 and is committed to enhancing and supporting the capability of local Head Start programs in the delivery of high-quality services for our children and families.

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