



MEDIA ADVISORY

For additional information, contact:
Melinda Dale, Marketing Manager
813-231-1952
mdale@educationfoundation.com

SURPRISE PATROL TO REVEAL FINALISTS FOR 2010 EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

Who: Hillsborough Education Foundation
What: 2010 Excellence in Education Awards Surprise Patrol
When: Wednesday, January 6, 2010
Where: Time and locations available by request

(January 5, 2010) TAMPA – The finalists for Hillsborough County’s Teacher of the Year, Ida S. Baker Diversity Educator of the Year, and Instructional Support Employee of the Year are chosen! On Wednesday, January 6, Hillsborough Education Foundation staff will travel around the county to surprise the Hillsborough County Public Schools employees who were named as finalists for this year’s inaugural Excellence in Education Awards. These individuals will receive the news of their status in the presence of their students and schools.

Amscot, Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union’s Suncoast for Kids Foundation, and Caspers Company McDonalds Restaurants will join the Foundation on the Surprise Patrol as the Presenting and Founding sponsors of this year’s awards program. Nominations for all three awards were submitted to Hillsborough County Public Schools by more than 200 area schools. All nominees and finalists will be honored at the Excellence in Education awards on January 28, 2010 at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts. Before an audience of approximately 2,500, the winners of each category will be announced.

**THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS NOTIFICATION IS EMBARGOED
UNTIL 5:00P.M., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2010.**

Ida S. Baker Diversity Educator of the Year Finalists

Jene D. Bell, *Chamberlain High School*
Kimberly A. Duran, *Foster Elementary*
Japera Helene Hodges, *Witter Elementary*
Michael L. Oliver, *Youth Services*
Karen Willis-Barrett, *Greco Middle School*

Instructional Support Employee of the Year Finalists

Susan Marie Blackmon, *Oak Park Elementary*
Julie Harris, *Broward Elementary*
Suzie Morse, *Chiles Elementary*
Valerie L. Pearce, *LaVoy Exceptional Center*
Kelly Jean Zelaya, *Stewart Middle Magnet*

Teacher of the Year Finalists

Crystal Dukes, *Freedom High School*

Ryan Kinser, *Turkey Creek Middle*

Emily Marrero, *Philip Shore Elementary*

Marcy Ringdahl, *Alafia Elementary School*

Holly Sinclair, *Gorrie Elementary*

For more information about the Hillsborough Education Foundation's Excellence in Education initiative, visit www.educationfoundation.com.

##

Information on Hillsborough Education Foundation, Inc:

The Hillsborough Education Foundation is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization whose mission is to invest community resources to help students achieve academic success. The Foundation, now celebrating 20 years of serving the students, teachers and schools in our community has invested more than \$69 million for enhancement of education. The Foundation annually raises over \$5 million and fulfills its mission via programs such as College, Career & Technical Scholarships, Teaching Tools for Hillsborough Schools, Take Stock in Children Mentoring, School Enrichment, and Excellence in Education programs as well as other resource programs to benefit those we serve.