



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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TAMPA, FL. (Thursday, June 21, 2012) -

The Human Development Center, Inc. (HDC), together with the Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union and Publix Super Market Charities and in cooperation with Hillsborough County Public Schools, awarded the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Praeceptor Award and \$5,000 cash prize to Amanda Harris of Clark Elementary in a ceremony and dinner held on May 17, 2012. Praeceptor Award Finalists included: Maria Rivas of Lopez Elementary and Janelle Garden of Claywell Elementary.

The award recognizes special education teachers who practices in the classroom are similar to those used at HDC. HDC uses principles of behavior analysis to promote independence and success to their adults clients with developmental disabilities and recognizes the importance of individual teachers who are utilizing many of these same cutting edge techniques in their classrooms. Those principles include: positive reinforcement, integration, normalization, replacement behaviors and goal setting.



Other recognitions at the event included:

Novus Praeceptor Award and \$1,000 cash prize to Ms. Rebecca Nance of Willis Peters Exceptional Center. and Finalist Heidi Gomez of Adams Middle School.

(The Novus award was created for those Praeceptor Award Nominees who are relatively new to the special education field. Teachers with five years or less experience in special education are not yet eligible for the Praeceptor Award however they most definitely exemplify what the Praeceptor Awards is about and these teachers will surely make an impact in the future).

Photos from the event are available at our website [www.hdcinc.org](http://www.hdcinc.org)

For more Information or photos, please contact Nicole Smith-Pellegatti at 813-872-6250, ext. 106 or email [nsmith@hdcinc.org](mailto:nsmith@hdcinc.org).