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TAMPA, FL. (Thursday, February 9, 2012)

### **CALLING ALL HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS**

These teachers' unique dedication and ability to motivate and captivate their students is worthy of this award and much more.

The Human Development Center, Inc. (HDC) is proud to announce that the 17th Annual Praeceptor Awards competition has officially begun. The nomination packet, as well as a letter of support from Hillsborough County Public Schools Superintendent MaryEllen Elia, has been mailed to all principals. Nominations are also available for download at [www.hdcinc.org](http://www.hdcinc.org).

The Praeceptor award is presented to a Hillsborough County teacher who follows the principles of behavior analysis and the Center (HDC) in teaching children with special needs to achieve as much independence as possible, and who challenges such students to attain their highest level of personal success. Any Hillsborough County teacher actively engaged in the teaching of Exceptional Student Education is eligible to win. First place is \$5,000 in cash and the coveted Praeceptor Iceberg Trophy. Nominations are due to HDC by 04/02/12. Teachers may be nominated by their peers, family, students, parents or themselves.

Founded in 1978, HDC is a private, non-profit state designated behavior intensive organization dedicated to promoting independence in the lives of adults with developmental disabilities, autism and mental health disorders. The Praeceptor Award, initiated in 1996, is HDC's method of recognizing and acknowledging the challenges and rewards of working with this population. These teachers' unique dedication and ability to motivate and captivate their students is worthy of this award and much more, says Nicole Smith Development Coordinator at HDC.

The 17th Annual Praeceptor Awards will be held on Thursday, May 17, 2012 from 6:30PM-8:30PM at LaTampa located at 1913 Nebraska Avenue in Tampa. The evening will consist of dinner and the presentation of awards.

This event is proudly supported by Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union, Suncoast for Kids Foundation, and Publix Super Market Charities. Sponsorship opportunities are available; please contact Nicole Smith at [nsmith@hdcinc.org](mailto:nsmith@hdcinc.org) or 813-872-6250, ext.106 for more information.