



19th Annual Praeceptor Awards



**CONGRATULATIONS
MICHELLE HAWKINS
CLARK ELEMENTARY
2014 PRAECEPTOR AWARD WINNER
and recipient of \$5,000 cash prize**

TAMPA, FL. (Thursday, June 11, 2014) -



From left to right, Michelle Hawkins, Mary Tlachac of Suncoast Credit Union Foundation, Nicole Pellegatti of the Human Development Center, and ESE General Director for Hillsborough County Schools Maryann Parks.

The Human Development Center, Inc. (HDC) hosted a ceremony on May 15th, 2014 to recognize excellence in the field of Hillsborough County Special Education Teachers. The 19th Annual Praeceptor Award was presented to Michelle Hawkins of Clark Elementary, who received the coveted Praeceptor Iceberg Trophy and a \$5,000 prize.

Educators, peers and parents expressed heartwarming appreciation for Ms. Hawkin's dedication to providing inclusion activities for her students as well as her individualized approach to finding out what motivates each of her students and structuring their lesson to provide a safe, nurturing environment where students participate and socialize to the best of their abilities. Numerous heartfelt accounts of Ms. Hawkin's determination, innovation, and dedication helped her to win this year's top award.

The Praeceptor Novus Award and a \$1,000 cash prize were awarded to Ashley Barnett of Caminiti Exceptional Center. Top finalists for

both categories included: Donna Kato of Essrig Elementary and Maria Rivas from Lopez Exceptional Center.

Special thanks to all of the evening's speakers and presenters, Kim Church, Psy.D. Clinical Psychologist at HDC, Bruce Moore, Senior Pastor of Christ Fellowship Church, Jody Fuller: Comedian, Soldier, Speaker and Master of Ceremonies- ABC News Anchor Brendan McLaughlin, and our awards presenters Mary Tlachac of Suncoast Credit Union Foundation, and ESE General Director, Maryann Parks.



From left to right, Ashley Barnett and Mary Tlachac of Suncoast Credit Union Foundation

HDC uses principles of behavior analysis to promote independence and success to 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.

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Photos from the event are available at our website www.hdcinc.org. For more information or photos, please contact Nicole Pellegatti at 813-872-6250, ext. 106 or email nsmith@hdcinc.org.