

## FLORIDA LITERACY COALITION PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:** Raychel George, (407) 246-7110, [georger@floridaliteracy.org](mailto:georger@floridaliteracy.org)

### FLORIDA LITERACY COALITION RECOGNIZES MARION COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

ORLANDO, Florida (May 21, 2010) – The [Florida Literacy Coalition](#) recently recognized the Marion County Literacy Council (MCLC) with an Excellence in Education Award for its significant milestones in the program's growth and development. The award was presented at a special banquet held during the annual [Florida Literacy Conference](#) in Captiva, Fla.

In all, six awards were presented during the State Literacy Awards banquet. Nominated by Lisa Varner, president of the MCLC board of directors, MCLC was honored for their excellence in serving the residents of Marion County to reduce illiteracy and expanding its programs' capacities.

In 1999 MCLC was established in a Marion County garage. Since its humble beginning, MCLC has grown into a reputable and established community-based organization. After becoming a United Way agency in 2004, the Council hired an executive director and later a full-time program director. Together, over the past two years, the staff and the board of directors worked to double the size of the program, serving more than 150 students in 2009, and sustained a dedicated volunteer base of more than 80 tutors. With this expansion, MCLC relocated to a new office which also accommodates a new computer lab for students. Currently MCLC is working towards

(more)

a ProLiteracy national accreditation and for its thriving ESOL and adult basic literacy programs.

“Marion County’s staff and board should be most proud of their achievements,” said Greg Smith, executive director of the Florida Literacy Coalition. “The Marion County Literacy Council is doing a great job providing much-needed literacy services in the area.”

Smith and Zelda Rogers, Senior Program Director for adult education with the Florida Department of Education, presented the award to Karen Hill, MCLC executive director, and Marisol Sepulveda, MCLC program director.

### **About the Florida Literacy Conference**

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual [Florida Literacy Conference](#), “Open Books Open Minds,” took place May 5-7, at the South Seas Island Resort in Captiva, Fla. The conference offered a diverse selection of interactive workshops led by literacy experts on a variety of topics including adult basic education, literacy, English for speakers of other languages and family literacy. Sponsors of the 2010 Florida Literacy Conference included the Florida Department of Education, Dollar General Literacy Foundation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Publix Super Markets Charities, Florida TechNet and Walmart.

### **About the Florida Literacy Coalition**

Established in 1985, The [Florida Literacy Coalition](#) (FLC) promotes, supports and advocates the effective delivery of quality adult and family literacy services in the state of Florida. As a statewide umbrella literacy organization and the host of Florida’s State Adult and Family Literacy Resource Center, FLC provides a range of services to support more than 300 adult education, literacy and family literacy providers throughout

(more)

Florida. Special emphasis is placed on assisting community-based literacy organizations with training and program development needs. For more information about the FLC call (407) 246-7110 or visit [www.floridaliteracy.org](http://www.floridaliteracy.org).

**Photography**

Karen Hill and Marisol Sepulveda

# # #