



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 19, 2017

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Achievement Academy Announces Award Recipients and New Board Members at Annual Meeting

LAKELAND, FL (October 19, 2017) - The Achievement Academy's Annual Board and Staff meeting was held on Wednesday, October 18th at Regal Automotive Community Room. The following new board members were announced: Stephanie Colon, Citizens Bank and Trust and Randy Saunders, BB&T.

The John F. Schneider Outstanding Service Award was presented to The Kontny Family and Kay Bowman for their tremendous support of the Achievement Academy. The Doris Trohn Award is presented to a business or organization for their commitment in creating brighter futures for children with special needs and was awarded to Pallet Recycle, Gator Pressure Cleaning & Custom Painting and United Way of Central Florida.

Staff awards were given to the following employees for their dedication and commitment to the children and families of Achievement Academy: Becky Jacklin for 35 years of service; Cindi Parker-Pearson, 30 years; Laurie Turner, RN, 20 years; Stacey Robinson, 20 years; Joanne Jones, 15 years; Destiny Wimberley, 15 years; Christine Gummow, 10 years; Carrie Redden, 10 years; Marisol Vega, 10 years; Griselle Unda, 10 years and Terri Pitts, 5 years.

ABOUT THE ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY: *The Achievement Academy serves children from birth through age five with various developmental delays and disabilities. The Achievement Academy offers two programs, each provided at no cost to the child or family. The first program is a **Charter School** that offers specialized instruction by certified teachers; small class sizes; individual speech, occupational and physical therapies; and assistive technologies that enable each student to reach his or her full potential at one of the Achievement Academy's three campus locations (Lakeland, Winter Haven and Bartow). The second is a "**Birth to Three Program**" that provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers who are "at-risk" for developmental delays and/or have been identified with a specific delay. Professional Early Interventionists serve these children and their families. More than half of the Birth to Three Program's budget is funded by a generous allocation from the United Way of Central Florida.*

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(L-R) John Burton, Achievement Academy Executive Director; Penny Borgia, United Way of Central Florida Chief Impact Officer; Alan Turner, United Way of Central Florida President & CEO; and Sam Houghton, Achievement Academy Board President. United Way of Central Florida was presented with the Doris Trohn Award for their commitment in creating brighter futures for children with special needs.