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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY STAFF NOMINATED**

LAKELAND, Fla. – (January 5, 2016) Two Achievement Academy staff members were nominated by their colleagues to represent Achievement Academy at an awards ceremony to be held on March 14, 2016 for charter schools in Polk County.

Monica Franklin, Lakeland teacher, was honored as our Teacher of the Year and Laurie Turner, Early Interventionist and School Nurse, was honored as our Support Person of the Year.

In achieving these awards their dedication and commitment to students and families and their desire to “go above and beyond” with such optimistic attitudes is both recognized and celebrated.

*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.*



Monica Franklin, Left  
Laurie Turner, Right