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PRESS RELEASE
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FCAN Announces Honorees of its Unsung Heroes of Resilience Awards
15 Unsung Heroes recognized for their work supporting students during tumultuous year

Florida College Access Network (FCAN) is pleased to announce the winners of its Florida Unsung Heroes of Resilience Awards.

“This award is in recognition of Florida community members who went above and beyond the call to support students impacted by extraordinary events that challenged our state over the past school year,” said Kathy McDonald, FCAN’s Assistant Director for Network Partnerships.

The 2017-18 school year required Florida students cope with the effects of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria, which resulted in many neighborhoods temporarily disappearing due to water damage and thousands of displaced students from Puerto Rico and other parts of the Caribbean being integrated into Florida schools mid-year. Additionally, the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shattered the sense of safety for students in Parkland and beyond.

The winners of FCAN’s Florida Unsung Heroes of Resilience Awards are:

Ralph Aiello, Director of School Counseling and BRACE, Broward County Public Schools
Nandranie Busjit Bhalai, Coordinator, Foster Care Program/Dependency Courts Liaison, Broward County Public Schools
Laura Castillo, Director of Scholarships, Florida International University
Lisa Church, Vice President, Champions for Learning; on behalf of **Future Ready Collier**
Jody Glassman, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Florida International University
Janean Knight, SEDNET Resource Teacher, Brevard Schools
Ray Larsen, Vice President for Collective Impact, Heart of Florida United Way
Tessa LeSage, Director of Social Innovation & Sustainability, SWFL Community Foundation
Chuck Licis, Student Services Coordinator, Take Stock in Children, Monroe County
Carol Lopez, Supervisor of College and Career Readiness, Broward County Public Schools
Jose Martinez, Principal, Colonial High School
Magda Rodriguez, College & Career Counselor, Hillsborough County Public Schools
Terrence Sullivan, School Counseling Director, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School
Danny Tritto, Guidance Specialist-Secondary, Broward County Public Schools
Damaris Valdes, Academic Affairs Program Manager, Florida International University

- more -

FCAN will recognize these Unsung Heroes during an Awards Luncheon on May 11 at the [2018 Florida College Access Network Summit](#).

Please join us in congratulating these Unsung Heroes and others like them who don't need to be told to step in and provide extra support for Florida's students.

About Florida College Access Network

The mission of the Florida College Access Network is to create and strengthen a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to improve college and career preparation, access, and completion for all students. Our Big Goal is to increase the percentage of Florida residents who hold a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential to 60% by the year 2025. For more information, visit www.floridacollegeaccess.org.

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