

# *Just for Teachers*

News from the Florida Department of Education  
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## *A Note from Sheila*

*"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."*

Dr. Seuss

For the past two years I've had the privilege of working with a group of amazing people – Florida's 180,000+ educators. As I've observed teachers making a difference in the lives of children across our state, I've been both broadened and encouraged. Even on the most challenging of days, teachers always gave me reasons to smile.

As much as I love meeting and working with teachers statewide, my heart has always remained at the local level. For that reason, when the opportunity recently presented itself, my husband and I accepted positions with the St. Johns County School District. We will be relocating with our family at the end of this month. It is an exciting move and we are thrilled at this new opportunity.

I can't begin to thank you enough for the kindness you've shown me during my time as your liaison. It has been a privilege to serve you as you serve your students. While I am a bit sad to be leaving, I am smiling that I was given the opportunity at all.

Please feel free to continue to send your comments and concerns to [justforteachers@fldoe.org](mailto:justforteachers@fldoe.org). You will be notified in an upcoming newsletter as soon as my replacement is selected.

## • *Cheryl Conley, 2011 Teacher of the Year*

As I said above, meeting teachers from all over Florida is one of the highlights of my position so it was especially fun that one of my last events as liaison was to attend the Florida Department of Education/Macy's 2011 Teacher of the Year event in Orlando. Meeting the remarkable district winners and finalists was more than amazing. I was especially encouraged during the Commissioner's Round Table discussion when the teachers met face-to-face to discuss educational policy with Commissioner Smith. Their comments and insights were invaluable.

During the event, Cheryl Conley, a fourth grade General Education Teacher at Osceola Magnet Elementary School in Indian River County, was named as the 2011 Teacher of the Year. Cheryl received the honor for her tremendous dedication to her students, her goal-oriented teaching style and her proven ability to inspire them beyond their own expectations. She will represent all of Florida's hard working teachers during the coming school year. I was personally impressed with the way Cheryl constantly deflected praise, always acknowledging her colleagues, administration, and support staff in her success.

Congratulations Cheryl! I know that you will represent us well.



It was a privilege to meet Cheryl and the other district winners!



## *Looking Ahead*

- The Governor's Hispanic Heritage Essay and Art Contest – details coming to your inbox soon.
- Check [www.fldoe.org/justforteachers](http://www.fldoe.org/justforteachers) often for updates, opportunities, and more.