

SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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## Press Release

Date: April 28, 2016

Contact: Colleen Strickland- Curriculum Supervisor

Re: 2016 Outstanding Volunteers and Outstanding Service to Schools

Volunteers and mentors were honored for over 89,000 hours of service to schools during the 2016 school year at the April 19<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting. During the ceremony dozens of people and organizations that donate their time, talents and money to support the students of the school district were recognized. Superintendent Richard A. Shirley commented, "Our volunteers are invaluable resources in helping our students succeed and in helping our school district maintain its Academically High Performing status- one of only a few school districts in the state. We are so appreciative of their service!"

Each school was asked to select one volunteer to receive recognition as the school's Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. This was an extremely difficult decision for all school personnel as we have so many wonderful volunteers. Each year the Florida Department of Education asks school districts to submit nominees for state recognition of volunteers in each of three categories: youth, adult, and senior. A district committee, then had the very difficult talk of selecting one person in each category for the state competition. This year's nominees for state volunteer recognition are Sally Fudge (senior category), Carla Duggs (adult category) and Kayla Smothers (Youth Category).

The district also recognizes individuals, businesses and organizations that have gone above and beyond in service to our schools and our school district. The Sumter school district is fortunate to have so many partners in this group and their contributions are appreciated, whether it be time, products, money or services to our school system. Each year the district selects a business partner to receive the Commissioners Business Recognition Award. This award is sponsored by the Commissioner of Education and is presented to businesses or organizations that help to bring about positive change in school districts. Duke Energy has been selected as the recipient of the 2016 Sumter nomination and will be recognized in June at the annual Commissioner's Business Recognition Awards Conference.

The following schools are listed with their selections for volunteers and community partners:

**Bushnell Elementary:** Sally Fudge; A and D Bunce House of Bushnell

**Lake Panasoffkee Elementary:** Laura Rumer; Oxford Assembly of God- Pastor Chuck Padgett

**Webster Elementary:** William Klems, Hope Lutheran Church

**Wildwood Elementary:** Wayne Grunewald; Friends of the Villages Library

**South Sumter Middle:** Priyanka Patel; McDonald's of Bushnell

**South Sumter High:** Carlos Marxuach; The Colinas Group-Mark Stephens

**Sumter Alternatives:** Dr. Eugene Nabritt; Sonny's Barb-B-Q of Bushnell

**Wildwood Middle High:** Josie Shepherd; Tutors for Kids, Inc.

**VPK:** Kathy and Mike Moraniec; Dogwood Mobile Home Park

**District:** Florida Department of Health in Sumter County, Suncoast Credit Union, CEMEX, United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties, Sumter County Sheriff's Office, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Wildwood Rotary Club, Duke Energy, Bedrock Resources, Barbara Bush Foundation, Parady Financial, Promise Hospital of Florida

Schools also receive special recognition based on the number of volunteer service hours provided. Golden School Awards are earned when the number of volunteer hours equal at least twice the number of students enrolled in the school. Silver school awards are earned when the total student volunteer hours equal at least half of the total number of students enrolled in the school. School awards are listed below along with the number of years the school has received the award.

Golden Schools: Bushnell Elementary 30 years, Lake Panasoffkee Elementary 26 years, Webster Elementary 31 years, Wildwood Elementary 32 years, South Sumter Middle 8 years, South Sumter High 16 years, Wildwood Middle High 4 years.

Silver School Awards: South Sumter High 15 years, Wildwood Middle High 4 years.