

FASP East Central Regional Awards Nominees
April 15th, 2011
Submitted by: Elvira Medina-Pekofsky, Area Representative

1. Barbara Ptaszynski

Barbara Ptaszynski, a school psychologist since 1999, was recently elected School Psychologist of the Year by the Orange County Association of School Psychologists (OCASP). Barbara is well respected among peers for her dedication to the students she serves and her level of professionalism and expertise. Through the years, Barbara has assumed multiple leadership roles, including Lead School Psychologist, Peer Mentor, Intern Supervisor, and member of the district's Standards of Practice Committee. Her comprehensive approach to examining all factors of students' academic, emotional, and behavioral well-being shows her commitment to the betterment of the students and families she encounters at her schools. This year Barbara supports an elementary school, a middle school and a high school. She is involved with the Response to Intervention Teams and is a member of the district-wide Crisis Intervention and Recovery Plan Committee.

2. Natacha Noel

Natacha Noel, the only Haitian-Creole speaking school psychologist in Orange County Public Schools, has been involved in the public school system for the past 10 years. She began her career as a middle school guidance counselor, while studying to become an Educational Specialist in School Psychology. As a district-wide bilingual school psychologist, Natacha has touched many lives, as she assists a large number of school teams, not only during the evaluation process of Limited English-proficient students from Haitian background, but also by interpreting for the families during various types of meetings, providing crisis counseling, assisting with selective mutism interventions, and engaging in the progress monitoring process as part of the Response to Intervention. As busy as she is, Natacha finds time to support the local organization as the current Treasurer of the Orange County Association of School Psychology. She is also a member of the FASP Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Committee.

3. Lisa Coffey

Lisa Coffey, a nationally certified and state licensed school psychologist, has held various Executive Board positions on the Florida Association of School Psychologists (FASP) Executive Board, including the Presidency (1999-2000), and in the Orange County Association of School

Psychologists, as Area Representative from 2001-2007. Lisa has participated on the district's Standards of Practice Committee for over 10 years, assisting colleagues by providing information and training to maintain standards of best practice. Lisa is trained through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in school related emergency response, through the American Red Cross Foundations in Disaster for Mental Health, and through NASP as Trainer on the PREPaRE Crisis Preparedness and Response. Her level of expertise has earned her the respect of the district-wide Crisis Intervention and Recovery Plan Committee, in which she plays a key role. She has supported Positive Behavioral Support initiatives, presenting at district and state conferences on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Parenting Strategies, Cyber Bullying, and Autism. Lisa is actively involved in the Response to Intervention process at her schools, in addition to providing counseling to students and supporting peers through mentoring and supervision for licensure.