

Sheriff's Office honors employees, volunteers and community members at awards event - 06/01/2012

Seminole Co. (6/1/12) - The Seminole County Sheriff's Office held its annual Awards Ceremony at Seminole State College, in Sanford, last night to honor the outstanding accomplishments of employees, volunteers and community members. At the event, Sheriff Don Eslinger presented 27 awards in seven categories: Administrative Excellence, Hugh Thomas Award of Excellence, Robert Moore Award, Unit Citation, Community Service Award, Life Saving Award and the Sheriff's Commendation.

"The men and women recognized with awards have truly set themselves apart," said Sheriff Don Eslinger. "We are proud of their accomplishments and the positive impact they've had on our community. They didn't just set the bar - they raised it."

A total of 136 award recipients were honored for demonstrating exceptional productivity, outstanding performance, or extraordinary bravery during the last year. Among them, five members of the agency, an agency volunteer and a citizen, each received Life Saving Awards for putting their own lives at risk to successfully save the lives of others. Those award recipients were:

- Gary L. Seybert, a Citizen on Patrol, who used CPR to save the life of an accident victim on I-4.
- John Herrick, an Oviedo citizen, who entered a retention pond to save a car accident victim from drowning.
- Deputy Donald Keen, who rescued a driver from a burning car after a multi-vehicle crash on S.R. 400.
- Deputies Teresa Maiorana and Charles Hilton, who helped save the life of a motorist who had a heart attack while driving, and gave aid to the man's distraught family.
- Evidence Specialist Judy McGrew, who helped a rollover accident victim until first responders arrived.
- Crime Scene Analyst Christine Snyder, who gave life-saving first aid to victim who had been stabbed in the neck.

Sheriff's Commendations were awarded to individuals who demonstrated outstanding effort and diligence beyond what is required for their duties. The commendation recipients were:

- Deputies Jose Tirado and Paul Pratt, who risked their lives to prevent a suicidal man from jumping off a bridge on S.R. 417.
- A team of deputies and communications personnel, who worked together to safely remove a 12-year-old girl from the rear window of a Sanford home that was the site of a standoff between authorities and an intoxicated armed man threatening suicide.
- Deputy Wendell Bradford, who attempted to save the life of a 21-month-old drowning victim.

- Corp. Mark Raborn, who is assigned to the Court Services Division and has ensured that the agency's post-conviction DNA collection rates are among the highest in the state.