

Florida's Local Education Foundations Honor Leon County Educator With 2018 'Invested In Excellence' Award



Jennifer Powell, 2018 Invested in Excellence award winner, with Maureen Wilt (right), Education Manager at Florida Power & Light, and Mary Chance (left), President/CEO, Consortium of Florida Education Foundations

Jennifer Powell, the Leon Public Schools 2018 Teacher of the Year, received statewide recognition and an award of \$1,000 from the [Consortium of Florida Education Foundations](#) (CFEF) and [Florida Power & Light Company](#) (FPL) July 13 for her tremendous impact on the lives of her students, school and community.

She was chosen from among 67 county-wide teacher of the year honorees as the CFEF's annual "Invested in Excellence" recipient for exemplary dedication to her students. Florida Power & Light Company sponsored the award with FPL Education Manager Maureen Wilt making the surprise announcement during Florida Department of Education Teacher of the Year gala in Orlando.

With 11 years' experience as a civics educator in Leon county, Ms. Powell has consistently sought opportunities to instill a sense of civic duty and community service in her students. While at Deerlake Middle School, she developed a multi-grade, cross-curricular All-American Heroes Rally for Veterans Day. She is the current advisor for the Student Government, Senior Class and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) organizations at Lawton Chiles High School.

"She is a role model not only for her students, but for her colleagues as well," said Leon County Schools Superintendent Rocky Hanna. "She remains active in multiple civics and citizenship initiatives on a wide scale, helping develop curriculum and strategies, such as the district's Law Alive program."

In presenting the award, the CFEF acknowledged the extra effort and dedication it takes for educators to engage the greater community and to provide learning opportunities for students beyond basic classroom curriculum.

"We sponsor this award with our business partner Florida Power & Light Company to annually celebrate a teacher of the year honoree who has a consistent focus on excellence in their classroom, including facilitating over-and-above resources and experiences for their students," said Mary Chance, president of the CFEF.

The CFEF is the membership organization for Florida's school district-wide local education foundations, including the Foundation for Leon County Schools. Established in 1987, the CFEF now represents 64 member foundations with 1,100 business and community leaders serving as volunteer board members. Collectively, they raise more than \$64 million annually to support students, teachers and schools through a variety of programs.

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