



Reading Coach at FLVS Named 2010 Just Read, Florida High School Reading Coach of the Year

Harris is the First, Virtual School Teacher to Receive Statewide Award

Orlando, FL (May 11, 2010) – Christine Harris’ approach to teaching and learning is to create engaging environments where all participants take responsibility for their learning and where success is measured by analyzing data through many facets, static or dynamic.

Because of her belief that everyone is a learner, her innovative focus facilitating continuous learning and the equal passion she devotes to mentoring others new to the profession, Harris will be named 2010 Just Read, Florida High School Reading Coach of the Year for Florida.

Harris is the first teacher from a virtual school to receive the statewide award from Just Read, Florida! Each year the state Department of Education honors educators who are tops when it comes to teaching reading or promoting a culture of literacy throughout a school district or at an individual school.

Harris, who has worked at Florida Virtual School (FLVS) for the past year and a half, has been recognized for her commitment to coaching and literacy in years past but is the first online educator to be presented with the 2010 Just Read, Florida High School Reaching Coach. Throughout her extensive career, Mrs. Harris has helped to ensure student learning, as a teacher in the classroom and as a coach for fellow teachers.

“As a state we are challenging our teachers to become more innovative, to adopt new teaching strategies to help students reach greater academic levels. Christine’s commitment not only inspires others to do more, but it challenges teachers to work toward innovating the learning experience for our next generation of students,” said FLVS Chief Learning Officer Pam Birtolo.

“Christine exemplifies what we want in the online teaching profession, and she is a mentor and coach to her peers.”

Harris began her career as an ESOL teacher at Hillcrest Elementary, a bilingual education school in Orange County, Florida. Later, she moved to Hillsborough Public Schools. There she served as reading coach and literacy consultant, training teachers at the district level. For four years, prior to coming to FLVS, she worked as a coordinator at the Florida Literacy and Reading Excellence Center at the University of Central Florida. While there, she created instructional materials, facilitated Reading Endorsement courses across the state, and provided training for district and school-level literacy trainers and coaches.

The winner for the Just Read, Florida! High School Reading Coach of the Year was selected from nominations submitted by students, teachers, principals, and school district administrators throughout the state. Florida school districts were invited to participate with Just Read, Florida in honoring outstanding educators who have contributed to reading education. The method used to select the candidates may vary according to the participating district. Each district K-12 Reading Plan Contact received nomination packets to be submitted on behalf of the district. Harris was the Region 3 winner and state finalist before being chosen as the Just Read, Florida!, HS Coach of the Year.

Ms. Harris earned her Master of Science degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University, and her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education was awarded by the University of Central Florida. She holds 300-hour ESOL and Reading Endorsements.

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About Florida Virtual School

Florida Virtual School (FLVS) is an established leader in developing and providing virtual K-12 education solutions to students all over Florida, the U.S. and the world. A nationally recognized e-Learning model and recipient of numerous awards, FLVS was founded in 1997 and was the country's first, state-wide Internet-based public high school. Today, FLVS serves students in grades K-12 and provides a variety of custom solutions for schools and districts to meet student needs.

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