



Communications & Government Relations
Karen Jordan, Public Information Officer

MEDIA RELEASE

Hernando School Announces District Winners

February 2, 2021 - We are pleased to announce D.S. Parrott Middle School educator, Mason Lewis is the 2021 District Teacher of the Year and Kimberly Noon from Challenger K-8 is the 2021 School-Related Employee of the Year for the school district. Lewis teaches Digital Information Technology and has been with Hernando Schools since 2006. Noon joined the district in 1999 and supports CK8 students as their eSchool lab manager.

The Hernando County Education Foundation (HCEF) is the organizer of this annual recognition which is typically held as a formal evening event. "We challenge ourselves each year to create a special celebration for our nominees. This year, we were just as determined to make sure each of them knew how much they are appreciated," Tammy Brinker, HCEF Chief Executive Officer said.

With School Board members, Superintendent, Executive Leaders and school principals in tow, HCEF staff brought confetti poppers, drums, flowers, sashes, balloons and cash awards to each of the district winners at their schools.

Turning to his surprised and delighted students, Lewis said, "To be honest. I do it for you. We come in and work hard and we get to have some fun. That's what life is all about. I'm just thankful for you guys."

At Challenger K-8, Kim Noon had no idea that this merry band was headed to her classroom next. Soon, she found herself smiling and speechless as dignitaries and her school team congratulated her. "Kim, it is so well-deserved! You are a great support to us all," Challenger K8 Principal, Rosemarie Maiorini said.

This year, the celebration needed to be a little different from our large gathering but the HCEF team did a great job making sure our Teacher and School-Related Employees of the Year felt valued and appreciated. That was the most important goal," Superintendent, John Stratton said.