

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida

“Spirit of Service-Learning Award”

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida Inc. (RPCVSF) is committed to building a better South Florida and to encouraging a new generation of informed and engaged citizens. RPCVSF believes that involving students in service-learning is a critically important approach to teaching and learning that will help create this new generation of citizens.

Curriculum-based service-learning is a teaching strategy that allows students to learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service in the community that is integrated into and enhances academic curriculum. Service-learning provides teachers and students with opportunities to select areas of interest connected to academic studies, do research, perform meaningful service, reflect on that service and demonstrate what they have learned. Service-learning programs increase student empowerment, ownership in outcomes, and commitment to meaningful civic engagement while building a better South Florida/global community.

RPCVSF, in partnership with co-sponsors Miami-Dade County *Teacher of the Year Coalition* and the Armando Alejandro Jr. Memorial Foundation, recognize and honor **K-12** and **college/university educators** each year for contributing to the integration of service into the curriculum and for making a commitment to connect students through service to help meet critical needs in the South Florida and/or global community.

ELIGIBILITY

A faculty or teacher in the K-12 or higher education system in South Florida.

CRITERIA

1. The service performed must make a difference in meeting real community needs
2. The instructor must engage students in a reflective learning process
3. The process of involving students in service must include preparation prior to the service, action, reflection, and demonstration of what the students have learned/taken away from the experience
4. The project must contribute to students' knowledge of their community's needs and their willingness to be engaged in finding solutions

NOMINATIONS

A nomination letter (maximum two pages) must be submitted by April 5, 2010 to RPCVSF. Individuals may nominate themselves, or they may be nominated by someone else. Nominations should address the ways in which the person meets the award criteria. Nominations should be emailed to Josh Young at jyoung1962@bellsouth.net.

SELECTION

An RPCVSF/*Teacher of the Year Coalition* committee will review nominations and select K-12 and higher education honorees. Winners will receive a cash award of \$500, while runner ups will receive smaller cash awards.

For more information contact Josh Young at 305-237-7477 / jyoung1962@bellsouth.net.



Miami-Dade County

TEACHER OF THE YEAR COALITION



ARMANDO ALEJANDRE JR.
FEBRUARY 24, 1996
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION