

2nd place
2011**COLLIER EDUCATOR AWARD "STAND UP FOR JUSTICE"**

Sponsored by the Community Relations Committee, Jewish Federation of Collier County

A \$250 annual award will be made to the educator, whose lesson(s) and/or activity(s) is selected as best meeting the criteria below. The purpose of this award is to honor those Collier County middle school educators who have striven to counter the prevailing tendency within today's popular culture for students to deride or denigrate others based upon difference. The lesson(s) or activity(s) should have as a major objective the purpose of instilling the positive character trait of "respect for others" in students. All nominees must have created lessons of their own design or successfully made adaptations from other programs and should be able to show evidence of a positive nature as a result of implementation. Successful nominees will be contacted and asked to submit a copy of the lesson(s) or activity(s), a description of its implementation, and evidence of effectiveness. Nominees may include Collier County middle school teachers, guidance counselors, school librarians, administrators, and media specialists. Self-nominations are accepted.

Nominee's Name M. Allison Ferraro
 Nominee's email ferram1@collier.k12.fl.us
 Number of years' teaching 9 total (1st in Collier)
 Grade or subject taught School Counselor Grades 6-8
 School East Naples Middle School
 School Address 4100 Estey Ave. Naples, FL 34103
 Phone (daytime) (239) 377-4806
 Phone (evening) (239) 403-4947

On a separate page(s) with the name of the nominee on each page, please briefly:
 Describe the precipitating events that motivated you to initiate these lessons or activities.
 Describe the lesson(s) or activity(s), and, if adapted from another source, please reference.
 Explain how the lesson(s) or activity(s) teach students the importance of respecting others no matter what religious, racial, cultural, or other differences exist.
 Explain how it helped them counter bigotry and bullying and prepare them to stand up for justice?

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SELECTED AS A FINALIST, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE/PROOF OF EFFECTIVENESS, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: A QUESTIONNAIRE OR INTERVIEWS, DOCUMENTED ANECDOTAL CONVERSATIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS, ETC.

Please complete the following section if you are nominating someone other than yourself.

Your name _____
 Your email _____
 Your address _____
 Your phone, day and evening _____
 Relationship to nominee _____

Submit the completed form no later than February 15, 2011, to:
 Beth Povlow
 c/o CRC, Jewish Federation
 2500 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Ste. 2201
 Naples, FL 34109

M. Allison Ferraro

In the beginning of this school year, nationally there were several teen suicides that were explained as results of bullying. With the support of the Administration at East Naples Middle School, I was afforded the opportunity to "spearhead" our schools anti-bullying efforts.

Early in September I presented a school wide anti-bullying lesson via closed circuit television to all sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. I had created a Power Point lesson that explained the bullying triad and the roles of persons involved, I also provided information about ways bullying may occur. After the presentation, teachers guided student discussions, and a survey was provided to all seventh and eighth graders. The survey was entitled, "Bullying in Our School Community". It gave the students an opportunity to share the perceptions of bullying and to have a voice as to the things that were going on in school. An online survey was also provided to faculty and staff.

Nearly 800 student surveys were turned in, results were tabulated and data collected. I incorporated this data into another Power Point that I entitled "School Violence: When does it become personal?" This information was shared with staff during a teacher inservice in December, 2010. I further adapted the information received and put it into a more student-friendly format and began teaching classes at all grade levels. At this point, approximately 1,000 students (the entire population of East Naples Middle) have been talked to about the effects of bullying and harassment.

The student lesson begins with a simple question of, "When did it become okay to be mean to one another"? The lesson progresses into ways that hatred has crept into our school and offers ways to stand up to or combat bullying – to choose kindness. Through candid discussions that address acceptance regardless of race, religion or cultural difference and bringing to light the harm that words and actions can cause, each student is asked to do their part in making our school a better place.

I appreciate being considered as an applicant for the "Stand Up for Justice Award". If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 377-4806 or my administrator, Tammy Caraker at 377-3600. Thank you for doing your part in encouraging our community to be a better place.