

Okaloosa County News Release

Cutline(s):

County Administrator Jim Curry presents the National Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award to (l-r) Purchasing Dept. Director Richard Brannon, Dennis Donaldson, Jack Allen, Nick Lombardi, Larica Redmond, & Sherri Williams.

Award winners at the 2008 Extension Professional Associations of Florida Conference: (L-R) Elaine Courtney, Jennifer Heady and Gerald Edmondson are pictured with County Administrator Jim Curry.

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Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us
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Okaloosa County Receives National Recognition

Okaloosa County Purchasing Department is one of only 10 counties in Florida to receive the National Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award. This award measures innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity and leadership attributes in procurement.

Additionally, the Okaloosa County Extension office was recognized at the Extension Professional Associations of Florida Conference this year. Director Gerald Edmondson received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents – less than 3 percent of agents nationwide receive this award. Extension Agent Elaine Courtney is known locally for the Okaloosa Saves program and was recognized for her work on the Florida Saves promotion of the Asset Building and Young Investor web site, www.UFYoungInvestor.org – she received the 25-year award from Epsilon Sigma Phi National Extension Fraternity. Lastly, 4-H Agent Jennifer Heady received three awards – the Florida Association of Extension 4-H Agents Media Presentation Award, the 4-H Innovator Award and the Educational Technology Award for her work on training courses online, use of new technology and the University of Florida's e-learning system. Two of the awards (4-H Innovator and Education Technology) won at the Southern Regional level.

Okaloosa County and the University of Florida Extension Office are combined to provide education on agriculture, marine sciences, family and consumer sciences, and more, to include youth programs in the county.

“The level of expertise of long-term employees serves Okaloosa County well locally and nationally – our employees are our best asset,” stated County Administrator Jim Curry.

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