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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROFESSORS BECKER AND MOLINARO RECOGNIZED BY AFC WITH PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

TALLAHASSEE – Professor Deborah Becker at the College of Central Florida was presented the Ernest L. Boyer International Award for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology, and Professor Kimberly Molinaro, at St. Petersburg College, was presented the Distinguished Faculty Award. Both awards were presented at the Association of Florida College’s International Conference on College Teaching and Learning in Orlando last week.

The Boyer Award, which includes a \$4,000 check to the winner, is named in honor of the late Ernest L. Boyer, former Chancellor of the State University of New York and United States Commissioner of Education. Persons nominated for the Boyer Award must have made contributions with broad, significantly positive effects on student learning, motivation, and creativity beyond their own departments and institutions.

The Distinguished Faculty Award, which includes a \$1,000 check, goes to the faculty member who best exhibits a dedication to academic teaching and scholarship. The award is designed to pay tribute to educators who are guiding twenty-first century students into the future with new pedagogical techniques and creative thinking.

Deborah Becker is an Associate Professor in the Associate Degree Nursing Program at the College of Central Florida. Her innovative spirit and desire to create evidence-based learning activities were cited as contributing to the establishment of a state-of-the art simulation program at the College of Central Florida. Professor Becker was recently selected as one of 20 individuals nationwide to participate in the National League for Nursing’s Leadership Development Program for Simulation Educators, a year-long fellowship that will further strengthen her knowledge of simulation, translating into exceptional experiences for health sciences students.

The other Boyer Award nominees were: Dr. Michelle Lee, Associate Professor, Humanities and Communication, Daytona State College, Roxana Levin, Professor, Communications, St. Petersburg College, and Dr. Chevalyette Von McGriff, Professor, Academic Affairs, Polk State College.

Kimberly Molinaro, Assistant Professor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at St. Petersburg College, is described as “student-focused”. Professor Molinaro created St. Petersburg College’s first highly readable, free in-house textbook. She developed the first Psychology Lab and prototype for learning communities. She also established a psychology internship to directly impact the local homeless population housed in a jail diversion shelter.

Natalie Whitcomb, Professor of Earth Sciences at Polk State College, was also nominated for the Distinguished Faculty Award.

Both awards were presented at the closing session of AFC’s conference by Dr. Tunjarnika Coleman-Ferrell, Dean of Academics at Palm Beach State College and 2018 AFC President, Dr. Jackson Sasser, President, Santa Fe College, and Michael Brawer, AFC Executive Director/CEO.

"We are thrilled to be able to honor both of these outstanding educators at our inaugural Conference on College Teaching and Learning” said Dr. Tunjarnika Coleman-Ferrell. “We are celebrating their current contributions to advancing education and encouraging their future contributions to the college teaching profession."

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ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA COLLEGES

The Association of Florida Colleges is the professional Association for Florida's 28 public community and state colleges, their Boards, employees, retirees, and associates. The mission of the Association is to actively promote, democratically represent, support, and serve the individual members and institutions in their endeavors to provide their students and the citizens of Florida with the best possible comprehensive community college educational system. For more information visit: www.myafchome.org.