

AWARD NAME: EARLY CAREER LEADERSHIP AWARD

NOMINATOR: Celia Hill,
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NOMINEE: Joy Hazell
Sea Grant Agent
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PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Joy Hazell has demonstrated outstanding leadership and innovative programming in her tenure as the Lee County Sea Grant Extension Agent. She has a proven record of working with allied agencies and local partners to increase the impact of her programs and get things accomplished

In Joy's first three months as a Sea Grant agent she met with local marine industry personnel, recreational and commercial anglers, kayaking groups, dive groups, government personnel and non profits to begin building programs that would have a significant impact in Lee County and beyond. In less than two years she has helped develop a program for underserved population that is receiving statewide and even national attention.

Joy has implemented many new programs in Lee County including the statewide monofilament recycling program, which is now available throughout the county and is managed by volunteer organizations, and the Train the Trainer program for Youth Sport Fishing offered in partnership with Charlotte and Collier County Sea Grant.

Most recently Joy partnered with Collier County Sea Grant, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to form the Southwest Florida Latino Environmental Education Network (LEEN). LEEN promotes environmental, community and economic well-being by working to improve environmental education and literacy opportunities available to Latino communities in Southwest Florida. Joy is the editor of the LEEN quarterly newsletter and the principal Investigator in a grant funded needs assessment of the Latino community's current knowledge about environmental issues and best methods of reaching this audience.

Joy has also been a local leader in safe and responsible boating. Her boating webpage was featured on the portal site for my.ufl.edu and she works with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to include environmental safety information in their safe boating classes. Lee County Sea Grant, partnering with Lee County Natural Resources also secured a grant to from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Boating Improvement Program in order to implement a community based social marketing approach for improving voluntary use of personal flotation devices. Social marketing is at the heart of many

successful social change initiatives, including dramatic increases in energy conservation, pollution prevention, recycling, and the reduction of risk behaviors such as smoking.

Joy also worked with the statewide Fisheries Extension Work Action Group to implement a catch and release program as a result of a change in fisheries legislations. In addition to web materials and television and radio appearances she taught multiple classes to local anglers on catch and release techniques that will increase the chances that a released fish will survive. Participants who attended catch and release workshops were assessed to determine their confidence in using circle hooks, venting tools and dehooking tools. 88% of participants were very confident using circle hooks, 92% of participants were very confident or somewhat confident using dehooking tools and 76% of participants were very or somewhat confident using venting tools. Even more telling, a six month follow – up survey was emailed to all catch and release workshop participants and 30% of participants responded. Of the respondents 78% had used circle hooks, 22% had used venting tools and 67% had used dehooking tools.

Joy has developed a variety of tools and methods to deliver her program including group teaching, games, newsletters, and fact sheets. She has had presentations accepted at EPAF and the 2008 International Coral Reef Symposium.

Joy, partnering with local agencies and Sea Grant Agents, has successfully applied for grants to fund her programs including: \$80,000 from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to conduct the personal flotation device work, \$2,200 from Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program to complete the needs assessment of the Hispanic community and \$5,000 to create a statewide protocol for crab trap cleanup during the annual closures.

Through Joy's work in the stated career highlights and other program areas she has exhibited leadership and collaboration. She has developed strong partnerships to enhance her programs and excels in identifying community needs and planning delivering and evaluating marine extension programs.