

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**Julie Rosborough**

External Communications/Media Relations  
Clerk & Comptroller, Palm Beach County  
301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
561.355.6118 (Direct)  
561.914.2655 (Cell)  
[jrosborough@mypalmbeachclerk.com](mailto:jrosborough@mypalmbeachclerk.com)

## **CLERK PRESENTS BEST PRACTICES AWARD TO FAU PINE JOG ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER**



(Left to Right) Pedro del Sol, Nonprofits First; Glenn Thomas, FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center; and Clerk & Comptroller Sharon R. Bock

*The innovative green initiative was recognized for reaching thousands of Palm Beach County school children*

**WEST PALM BEACH, FL** (March 11, 2010) – Clerk & Comptroller Sharon R. Bock recognized the FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center on March 10 with the Clerk’s 2010 Best Practices Award for innovation in a nonprofit organization. Bock presented the award at The Florida Nonprofit Conference, hosted by [Nonprofits First](#) at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

The Clerk recognized the [FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center](#) for its innovative Green Schools Recognition Program. This initiative encourages school communities to develop cultures of sustainability and environmental stewardship, including school grounds enhancement, resource conservation, recycling programs, “green-themed” curricula, and community involvement. Since its beginning less than two years ago, more than 75 schools have signed up to participate in the

program, which is a collaboration with the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties and the School District of Palm Beach County. The top schools each year receive stipends to be used to further their efforts.

"As this innovative program continues to grow and inspire enthusiasm for the greening of Palm Beach County, just imagine what it could do if it was duplicated at even a fraction of the more than 124,000 other public and private schools in the United States," said Clerk Bock during the award presentation.

The Best Practices Award honors a nonprofit organization that strives for continuous improvement and excellence. A total of 15 nonprofit organizations were nominated for their work to implement innovative best practices or models of excellence. A panel of independent judges from the private, public and nonprofit sectors reviewed the nominations and selected the recipients.

Other nominees for the Clerk's Best Practices award included: Alzheimer's Community Care, Breakthrough Prayer Ministries, Caribbean American for Community Involvement in Florida (CAFCI), Caridad Center, ChildNet, Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, Florida Fishing Academy, Hospice of Palm Beach County, Junior Achievement of the Palm Beaches, Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group, National Women Business Owners Corporation, Norton Museum of Art, St. Mark's Episcopal Church & School and The Lord's Place.

As a 2003 recipient of the coveted Governor's Sterling Award for "organizational performance excellence," the Clerk & Comptroller's office has an ongoing commitment to promoting continuous improvement and innovation through the study and sharing of best practices. In 2005, the Clerk's office began recognizing leaders and organizations that employ best practices during the office's annual Best Practices conference, which is currently on hiatus due to significant budget and staff reductions resulting from legislative cuts in 2009. This year, the Clerk's office is pleased to have partnered with Nonprofits First to continue its tradition of recognizing organizational best practices.

For more information about the Best Practices Award or the Clerk & Comptroller's office, please visit [www.mypalmbeachclerk.com](http://www.mypalmbeachclerk.com).

***The Florida Constitution established the independent office of the Clerk & Comptroller as a public trustee, responsible for safeguarding public records and public funds. Clerk Sharon Bock is directly elected by and accountable to Palm Beach County residents. In addition to the roles of Clerk of the Circuit Court, County Recorder and Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, the Clerk & Comptroller is the Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Auditor for Palm Beach County.***

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