

NARDI ROUTTEN, COE ALUM, AWARDED \$25,000 MILKEN AWARD



Nardi Routten, surprised by presentation from Ann Scott, Pam Stuart and Jane Foley.



Nardi Routten, a fourth-grade teacher at Frances K. Sweet Elementary in Fort Pierce, FL, is the state's sole Milken Educator Award winner for the 2014-15 school year. Florida First Lady Ann Scott and State Education Commissioner Pam Stewart joined Milken Educator Awards senior vice president Dr. Jane Foley for a surprise presentation of the award at the school.

Nardi graduated with her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education on May, 1, 1998 (Summa Cum Laude- 3.93). She was admitted to the master's degree in Reading Education for the 2015 summer term.

In the classroom, Routten typically has students with a wide range of aptitudes. About one-quarter of them are special education students. Even with this challenge, Routten's classes routinely score among the highest in her school and district. Seventy percent of students achieve a 3 (satisfactory) or better on a five-point scale in both Reading and Math on the FCAT 2.0, and 82% achieve a 3.5 or better in Writing. At the beginning of the school year, Routten helps her students set and stay on track with personal goals. Parents request to have their children placed in her classroom because they know she will be able to meet their child's specific needs.

The Milken Family Foundation first presented the Milken Educator Awards in 1987. Since that time, it has become the nation's preeminent teacher recognition program and was dubbed the "Oscars of Teaching" by Teacher magazine. Recipients can use their \$25,000 award in any way they choose. More than \$137 million in funding, including over \$65 million in individual \$25,000 awards, has been devoted to the overall program, which includes powerful professional development opportunities throughout recipients' careers.