

# COE Alumna Named 2014 Broward Teacher of the Year

Evelyn Schwartz, Florida Atlantic University College of Education alumna, has been named the 2014 Broward Teacher of the Year. She was recognized at the "Caliber Awards" ceremony – a Broward County Public Schools black tie-affair held at the Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale. Schwartz was selected from more than 14,000 teachers in the district.

The Florida Panthers also recognized Schwartz's accomplishment at a Cats-Washington game. Florida Panthers President Michael Yormark presented Mrs. Schwartz with an honorary Panther's jersey. "The entire Panthers organization is committed to supporting education and we are thrilled to be able to recognize one of our community's great teachers," said

Yormark.

Mrs. Schwartz had worked in business for 20 years when she decided to go back to school to finish earning a college degree. She received a bachelor's from the College of Education at FAU in 1993.

"We are quite excited that one of our alumni has been awarded this honor," said Valerie J. Bristor, Dean of FAU College of Education. "As one of her former professors at Florida Atlantic University, I am extremely proud of her accomplishments."

Evelyn "Mrs. Shorts" Schwartz is a 19-year veteran teacher at Oakridge Elementary School. For the last 17 years, she has focused on inspiring and encouraging her first grade students to achieve their highest levels. "My students'

mission statement is: 'I am responsible for my learning, safety, health, happiness and making the world a better place,'" said Schwartz. "My students are only six and seven, but they understand our mission."

Schwartz says she has earned the moniker "Mrs. Shorts" not because of her less than five foot stature, but because she's small and because her first graders can't pronounce her last name. Even years later, Schwartz says, students will come back to visit and still call her "Mrs. Shorts." But she doesn't mind. "I absolutely love teaching, I never tire of it."

Mrs. Schwartz will go on to compete over the summer for the state Teacher of the Year title.



Florida Panthers President Michael Yormark presents Mrs. Schwartz with an honorary Panthers' jersey in honor of being named Broward County's Teacher of the Year. Florida Panthers truly support education.



Evelyn B. Schwartz recently reunited with her former professor, Dr. Valerie J Bristor at a Broward Education Foundation function.