



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF GADSDEN COUNTY

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"Putting Children First"

Chattahoochee Elementary School principal Valencia Denson has been nominated for the 2017-2018 national LifeChanger of the Year award.

Sponsored by the National Life Group Foundation, LifeChanger of the Year recognizes and rewards the very best K-12 educators and school district employees across the United States who are making a difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence and leadership.

In 2012, Denson became principal of Chattahoochee Elementary School and successfully improved student achievement, parental involvement and the overall perception of the school. After executing her plan of action, Denson helped the school go from a "D" rated school to a "B" rated school, at the end of her first year.

"Today, Ms. Denson still sits at the helm of the school and is doing great things in the lives of the students, parents and community," the nominator said.

Each school year, LifeChanger of the Year receives hundreds of nominations from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Seventeen individual LifeChanger of the Year awards will be given during the 2017-2018 school year.

- (1) Grand Prize Winner – will receive \$10,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- (4) Grand Prize Finalists – will receive \$5,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- (10) LifeChanger Award Winners – will receive \$3,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- (1) Spirit Award Winner – This award is given to the nominee whose community demonstrates the most support for their nomination. The winner will receive \$5,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- (1) Spotlight Award Winner – This award is given to a nominee in a specific discipline each year. For 2017-2018, the award was given to Debra Santiago, who works as a secretary and bookkeeper in Orlando, FL. She received \$5,000 to share with her school, Timber Lakes Elementary School.

Winners are announced via surprise award ceremonies held at their schools. The grand prize finalists will also be honored at a national awards ceremony in spring 2018 in Bermuda, where the Grand Prize Winner will be revealed.

Winners are chosen by a selection committee comprised of former winners and education professionals. Nominees must be K-12 teachers or school district employees. To be considered for an award, nominees must

- Make a positive impact in the lives of students
- Enhance their school or district's atmosphere, culture and pride
- Demonstrate exemplary leadership at the school and/or district level
- Possess a proven record of professional excellence
- Show commitment to building a nurturing environment that supports learning
- Adhere to the highest moral and ethical standards

A resource page with ideas for how to celebrate nominees can be found at <http://lifechangeroftheyear.com/showspirit/>.

To view Ms. Denson's LifeChanger of the Year nominee profile, or to nominate someone from your school community, visit www.LifeChangeroftheYear.com.

Audrey Lewis
DISTRICT NO. 1
HAVANA, FL 32333
MIDWAY, FL 32343

Steve Scott
DISTRICT NO. 2
QUINCY, FL 32351
HAVANA, FL 32333

Isaac Simmons, Jr.
DISTRICT NO. 3
CHATTAHOOCHEE, FL 32324
GREENSBORO, FL 32330

Charlie D. Frost
DISTRICT NO. 4
GRETNA, FL 32332
QUINCY, FL 32352

Tyrone D. Smith
DISTRICT NO. 5
QUINCY, FL 32351