

## Outstanding Educator Award

Every year at The Florida Developmental Education Association Annual Conference the FDEA Board presents an Award for Outstanding Contributions to Developmental Education. This award, established in 1982, recognizes a developmental educator who has made significant contributions to the field. The award reflects the recipient's membership and involvement in FDEA, interest and concern for students, professional development, leadership, and creativity.

### The FDEA Award for Outstanding Contributions to Developmental Education



**Karen Pain**

Math Professor/  
Developmental Math  
Faculty, Palm Beach  
Community College

- Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate and Continuing Scholar Award, 2002, 2008
- PBCC Adjunct Professor of the Year, 2006
- Co-recipient of 1<sup>st</sup> place, FACC Curriculum Commission's Exemplary Practice
- Co-recipient of 2007 Florida Department of Education Chancellor's Best Practice Award, category of Academic Affairs

Professor Karen Pain is an excellent example of an influential developmental math professor. Her story begins here at Palm Beach Community College, where as a developmental math student she returned to college after an 18 year absence from education. Although Professor Pain never intended to become a math professor, she soon found herself as a Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leader for college algebra and statistics. She graduated from PBCC with Honors, won the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Undergraduate and Continuing Scholar Award, and transferred to Florida Atlantic University to earn her Bachelor's degree in

Mathematics. This year she graduated from Nova Southeastern University with a Master's of Science in Mathematics Education.

In 2003, Professor Pain helped roll out an SI program dedicated to developmental math courses at PBCC. As a result of that work, she found a passion for teaching. The following year she became an adjunct professor for Prep Algebra I and II, and in 2006 won the PBCC Adjunct Professor of the Year Award. In that same year, Professor Pain became a full-time assistant professor, and continues to develop new and improved programs and techniques to teach developmental math.

Professor Pain's dedication to developing new

programs for prep math was a result of her position as Academic Success Coordinator for the PBCC Title III Grant. In that position, she studied various programs to determine which aspects worked for prep math students and which did not work. A successful result of that research was the development of a combined scheduling program for prep math courses that allows students to complete levels I and II algebra in one semester. The program was a huge success and Palm Beach Community College won the 2007 Florida Association of Community Colleges (FACC) Curriculum Commission Exemplary Practice Award for it.

### Student Nomination Letter

My name is Daniel Hill, and I'm a former student of Professor Karen Pain, an Assistant Professor of Developmental Math at Palm Beach Community College. I'm submitting this letter in regards to her nomination for the Outstanding Educator Award offered by the Florida Developmental Education Association and my support for that nomination.

Professor Pain has been a remarkable influence on not just my math success here at PBCC, but also many other students

past and present. Her outstanding ability to teach the necessary fundamentals of prep algebra is truly remarkable. I believe that hard work and dedication in a difficult, and sometimes frustrating, line of work should be recognized — and Professor Pain definitely deserves that recognition.

The outline and narrative included with the nomination is a brief summary of Professor Pain's achievements and career highlights in developmental math. It, however, does not

highlight the impact that she has on her students. Ask any one of her former students, and you will hear nothing but glowing compliments of her teaching style and ability to connect to students and get them to understand the topic. I believe that I speak for every one of her former (and present) students, when I say that she is the perfect candidate for this award. Thank you for your consideration, and I hope that this letter has provided additional insight for your nomination decision.