

UPDATE:

2010 FDEA President's Circle Award Winner, Phil Campbell



Phil Campbell, a former Marine, was homeless. With help from the National Veteran's Homeless Support, he now has an apartment, a car, a job and is attending BCC. He works at an area Chevron store.

By Cathy Lally

Last year, Phil Campbell, from Brevard Community College, wrote a winning essay detailing his life as a homeless vet who returned to school so he could become an “effective member of society,” and in turn become a role model for his fellow homeless vets. Over the course of the past year, Phil has not only continued to do very well in college, taking classes which will lead to a major in sociology or counseling, but he has also made an impression on the community. In fact, the *Florida Today* recently ran a front page article detailing Phil’s recent achievements. While Phil was attending school, the owners of a convenience store close to his encampment in the woods allowed him to use their internet connection so he could complete his classwork. They were so impressed with his dedication, that they eventually offered him a job three months ago. Phil also works for a mission group providing nighttime security in turn for an apartment in their office. He also became involved with the National Veterans Homeless Support group, and through this organization, an anonymous donor gave Phil a car. Of course, Phil is always one to “pay it forward,” so in turn, he is giving his motorized bike to another homeless person and he is mentoring two younger vets. In his FDEA scholarship essay, Phil said with the help of his support systems, his “future looks brighter.” Right now, Phil is basking in a well deserved spotlight.