



**FPRA Volusia/Flagler Chapter**  
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## *Volusia/Flagler Chapter*

News Release – April 8, 2008

### **Volusia/Flagler Chapter Board of Directors**

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### **Local public relations association honors communicators, media**

DEBARY – The Volusia/Flagler Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA) announced Kate Holcomb, APR as its 2008 Great Communicator Award winner at a luncheon on Tuesday, April 8, at the DeBary Hall Historic Site Stables. The event marked the ninth year for the award and recognizes outstanding communicators in the area and excellence in local journalism.

Holcomb, brand manager of Hudson Technologies in Ormond Beach, has worked in public relations, marketing and media relations for 23 years, and recently held the position as public relations director for Halifax Community Health System (now Halifax Health). She has served as a past local FPRA chapter president and as the Accreditation and Certification Vice President for the state association.

“I really didn’t expect this, but looking around this room, I’m positive of one thing. If I am a great communicator, it’s because of the wonderful opportunities I had to work with all of you and the fact that I had the privilege of being there when things were accomplished,” stated Holcomb.

In addition to naming the 2008 Great Communicator, FPRA also celebrated the inclusion of two new awards and honored Claire Metz, bureau chief/reporter, WESH News 2, as Media Representative of the Year for her contributions to factual and fair reporting. Vickie Pleus, APR, Volusia County Government Community Information Manager, was recognized as FPRA Member of the Year for her active role in guiding the local chapter through her role as vice-president of communications.

Fourteen nominations were received for the three awards, and five previous Great Communicator Award recipients participated on the judging panel. Previous Great Communicator Award recipients are John E. Evans, APR, CPRC (1999); Dave Byron, APR, community information director, Volusia County Government (2000); Jackie Kersh, APR, Linda Glover and Associates (2001); Mike Jiloty, Florida president, Lord & Lasker Inc. (2002); Bob Davis, president, Hotel/Motel Association (2003); Black Crow Broadcasting (2005); Mary Harowski, APR, TMH Consulting Inc. (2006); and the late Al Tolley, public information officer, Daytona Beach Police Department (2007).

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Communicator event was sponsored by Florida Hospital, Christine Talley Design, DeBary Hall Historic Site, Radcliffe Communications and Far Reach Technology.

The FPRA is dedicated to developing future public relations practitioners and providing professional development and networking opportunities to current practitioners. The statewide organization has 15 professional and 10 student chapters. Learn more about the FPRA Volusia/Flagler Chapter at [www.fpravf.org](http://www.fpravf.org).

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