

Maria Chavez-Hernandez "Libraries Change Peoples' Lives" Award

Purpose/Criteria: Named in honor of Florida State University's Dr. Maria Chavez-Hernandez, the purpose of this award is to recognize an individual library employee or group of employees who have made a demonstrably positive and big difference in the lives of Florida's library users. Of special focus are programs and services that provide outreach to immigrant and/or under-served populations.

Eligibility: This award is open to all types of libraries, library organizations and library associations in the state. The recognized service or program must have been in place for at least two calendar years and may serve either adults, or adults and children. All types of programs and services may be nominated.

Background: Dr. Chavez-Hernandez received her Ph.D. in Library Science and Information Studies from Florida State University in 1991. She was responsible for a large body of work focusing on Library and Information Services in the Caribbean region, and provided many resources and programming on the specific library and information needs of Latin American immigrants and their families.

Dr. Chavez-Hernandez was also an active member of FLA, ALA, the Association of Library and Information Science Education (ALISE), the National Education Association (NEA), and REFORMA (National Association to Promote Library Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking).

The Florida Library Association created this award to honor Dr. Chavez-Hernandez and to perpetuate the dynamic spirit of her work in expanding the opportunities of information access to under-served and immigrant populations.