

Gulf World Marine Institute Receives \$10,000 in Donations



Governor Rick Scott and members of the Cabinet presented Ron Hardy, co-owner of Gulf World Marine Park, a check for \$5,000. This money was contributed to Gulf World Marine Institute Inc., a nonprofit organization committed to assist in the rehabilitation of sick and injured marine animals. Gulf World Marine Park serves as the area coordinator for the Southeast Marine Mammal Stranding Network. Gulf World's stranding team has assisted in the rehabilitation and release of several marine mammals and hundreds of sea turtles over the past few years. During the presentation, Peter Miller, host of Bass 2 Billfish television show, announced that he would match the \$5,000 donation. The entire \$10,000 will be applied to the Marine Institute. These funds will allow the purchase of medical equipment and supplies in the continued efforts to help injured animals along our coast.

Pictured (attached) left to right: Gulf World Marine Park Co-Owner Ron Hardy, Agriculture Commissioner Adam Puttman, Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Governor Rick Scott.

The GCCC Alumni Association Announces the 2011 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year and 2011 Rising Star of the Year

Panama City, FL – The second annual Gulf Coast Community College Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award Presentation & Dinner was held on April 14, 2011 at Captain Anderson's Restaurant. W. Frank McKeithen (GCCC Certificate, 1973), Bay County Sheriff, was named as the 2011 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. Tamika Ross Williams (GCCC AS, 1997 & AA, 2007), Director, Women's Services, Gulf Coast Medical Center, was named as the 2011 Rising Star Alumnus of the Year. Additional finalists recognized for their accomplishments were Harriet Taylor, Principal, Springfield Elementary School, and Catherine Long Tucker, FSU Panama City graduate student & Bethel Village volunteer.

Sheriff W. Frank McKeithen's law enforcement career began in 1973



when he joined the Panama City Police Department. As a dedicated law enforcement officer, he was appointed Sheriff of Gulf County in 1993 by Governor Lawton Chiles. In 2003, Governor Jeb Bush appointed him Bay County Sheriff where Sheriff McKeithen continues to provide outstanding service for our community today. Sheriff McKeithen received his GCCC Law Enforcement Certificate in 1973. He has earned numerous awards, including

Florida Law Enforcement Officer of the Year in 1993. Community service is a huge part of Sheriff McKeithen's life. He works with Gulf Coast Community College Law Enforcement students by providing instruction and speaking to Public Safety classes at GCCC's North Bay Center in Southport. He is an active fundraiser, participating in local Heart Association and Cancer Society events. The Alumni Association is extremely proud to honor Sheriff W. Frank McKeithen as the 2011 GCCC Distinguished Alumnus of the Year.

Tamika Ross Williams is the Director of Women's Services at Gulf Coast Medical Center (GCMC). Ms. Williams is responsible for unit supervision, capacity and budget management, and she manages nearly 80 full-time employees. Employed with GCMC since 2001, she has held increasingly responsible positions, from Labor and Delivery Nurse, to Resource Nurse, to Labor and Delivery Manager, to her current Director's position. As a two-time graduate of GCCC, Ms. Williams received her AS in Nursing in 1997 and her AA in Nursing in 2007. Continuing her education at FSU Panama City, Ms. Williams earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 2009, while also receiving the FSU Leadership Award that same year. Ms. Williams is active in her church ministry and is currently a member of the Bay County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Bay Class of 2011. Ms. Williams enjoys the opportunity to give back to Gulf Coast students as she mentors and assists them during their clinical rotations at GCMC. The new Rising Star Award recognizes GCCC alumni who have completed their studies at the College within the past ten years, and the Alumni Association is very pleased to honor Ms. Tamika Ross Williams as the 2011 GCCC Rising Star Alumnus of the Year.

For additional information, please visit the GCCC Office of Alumni Affairs at www.gulfcoast.edu/alumni or call (850) 873-3583.