

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Media Contact: Gail Rayos  
407-377-6836  
[grayos@wraggcasas.com](mailto:grayos@wraggcasas.com)



### **State Association Awards Honor Outstanding Graduate, Excellence in Service to Career Schools**

TALLAHASSEE, FL – August 12, 2014 – The 2014 graduate of year, along with the awards for outstanding school, faculty member, administrators and leaders from Florida’s career schools, were announced at the annual awards ceremony by the Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges (FAPSC).

Among the highest honors from the state association representing career schools is the Graduate of the Year Award, presented this year to Harmony Jones from Full Sail University in Central Florida. Full Sail University also was selected school of the year, recognized for its innovative professional standards program, community contributions and industry partnerships that provide students with unique learning opportunities.

Omar Escarpio, a professor in the respiratory therapy program of Florida National University in Hialeah, was honored for his dedication to preparing professionals committed to careers in health care.

The 2014 awards were selected by a panel and presented at the association’s annual conference in Miami attended by educators and business leaders.

“Each year FAPSC recognizes the administrators, faculty, graduates and schools who exemplify ‘reaching new heights’ in higher education,” said Curtis Austin, executive director of FAPSC. “The life-changing outcomes that these amazing people achieve is truly commendable and always will remain our focus.”

The complete list of 2014 winners:

- Graduate of the Year – Harmony Jones of Full Sail University
- School of the Year – Full Sail University
- FAPSC Member of the Year – Justin Berkowitz of Daytona College
- FAPSC Associate Member of the Year – Mitch Talenfeld of MDT Marketing
- Education Administrator of the Year – Dr. Barbara Rodriguez of Florida National University
- Gail Benjamin Student Services Administrator of the Year – Maria Goodspeed of Fortis Institute - Pensacola
- Faculty Member of the Year – Omar Escarpio of Florida National University - Hialeah

FAPSC has been the voice of Florida’s career schools since 1956. The association of more than 250 members works on behalf of the more 1,000 licensed private career schools and colleges in

Florida that prepare students each year for employment in more than 200 occupational fields by offering degree programs, certification and training.

# # #

Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges  
150 South Monroe Street, Suite 303  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Phone: 850-577-3139  
[www.FAPSC.org](http://www.FAPSC.org)