Indian River State College was named a top-ten national finalist for the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, America’s most respected and selective recognition of high achievement among community colleges. After a rigorous review of the College’s performance, IRSC was selected as one of ten Prize finalists from a pool of more than 1,000 colleges nationwide. This marks the second time IRSC has been selected as a top ten finalist for the $1 million prize.

“Our second consecutive selection as a top-ten finalist for the Aspen Prize is a tremendous honor, and one which reflects IRSC’s sustained commitment to student success,” said Dr. Edwin R. Massey, IRSC President. As part of the Prize process, the Aspen Institute assesses college achievement in student learning, certificate and degree completion, high rates of employment and earnings for graduates, and access and success for minority and low-income students.

“Indian River State College’s efforts to get and keep students on clear program pathways aligned with labor market needs serves as a model for community colleges across the country,” said Joshua Wyner, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program in Washington, D.C.

Indian River State College congratulates three vice presidents recently appointed by its District Board of Trustees: Dr. Marta Cronin, Vice President of Academic Affairs; Dr. Christina Hart, Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services; Dr. Patricia Profeta, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness.

Dr. Cronin started at IRSC in 2001 as a Master Instructor of Education and progressed to Full Professor and Department Chair. Dr. Hart is an Indian River alumna who returned to IRSC in 1981. After multiple leadership roles, she became Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness in 2003. Dr. Profeta came to IRSC in 1992 and was appointed Dean of Learning Resources in 2003. Dr. Profeta succeeds Dr. Hart in this leadership role.
**IRSC Recognizes Distinguished Alumna**

Dr. Christine Jefferson Taylor was honored as the 2016 Indian River State College Distinguished Alumni. “Throughout 37 years as an education professional, Dr. Jefferson Taylor has helped thousands of children and young people improve their lives through education and has consistently demonstrated the qualities of excellence, service and leadership that IRSC seeks to instill in its students,” said Dr. Edwin Massey, IRSC President.

Dr. Taylor launched her career as a physical education teacher in Fort Pierce elementary schools and held counseling positions from 1977 to 1990. Her superior performance resulted in appointment as Director of Guidance at Lincoln Park Academy and service as Assistant Principal, Principal, Executive Director of Zone 3 Schools, Area Assistant Superintendent and most recently as Assistant Superintendent of St. Lucie County Schools and Community Services from 2006 to 2012.

**IRSC named Leader College**

Achieving the Dream (ATD) has designated Indian River State College as a “Leader College,” a national honor awarded to institutions in the ATD National Network who have shown exceptional student success.

“Leader College status represents a sustained, successful effort to build a student-centered culture,” said Dr. Karen A. Stout, President and CEO of Achieving the Dream, a national nonprofit dedicated to helping community college students, particularly low-income students and students of color, stay in school and earn a college certificate or degree. “Colleges that stay focused on the hard work of transformation deserve to be recognized when they make measurable progress.”

The new year-round registration schedule supported program retention, allowing students and advisors to map their entire pathway, identify challenges and plan solutions. Other successful priorities include live and online New Student Orientation and a student success course providing training in financial literacy, time management, goal setting, and lifelong learning.

“IRSC is honored to be recognized nationally for closing achievement gaps and increasing success for every student,” said Dr. Edwin R. Massey, IRSC President. “Helping students reach their educational goals contributes significantly to their individual career prospects, and the benefits further support the economic strength of our community and nation.”

**Dean of Health Sciences Retires**

After 24 years of service to Indian River State College, Jane Cebelak has retired as Dean of Health Sciences. Dean Cebelak has overseen the development of the College’s exemplary health science programs, combining highly-effective classroom instruction with clinical experiences. Her kind demeanor and passion for student learning will not only be missed by the faculty, staff, and students of IRSC but also the surrounding community.

**Season’s Greetings,**

My name is John Crowe, and I am lucky to serve as your new Alumni Development Coordinator. Much of my career has been spent focused on the higher education experience and how it impacts students. I look forward to continuing this focus by providing opportunities for our alumni to stay in contact and become involved through a variety of programs.

The Alumni Association, hosted by the Indian River State College Foundation serves as a central point of communication for all of our valued graduates. Whether you represent Indian River Junior College, Community College, or State College we welcome you as part of our family. Our goal is to keep you connected to the College and your alumni peers. Please stay in touch so we can provide updates on what Alumni are accomplishing in the community and throughout the nation.

As the year comes to a close, we are in the midst of planning multiple events, publications, and opportunities all focusing on starting dialog with our alumni. We hope that 2017 will be one of our biggest years yet! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to become involved with Indian River State College. We also have a social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram!

Regards,

John Crowe
Alumni Development Coordinator

**Commemorative Alumni Bricks**

Order in person or online at www.irscfoundation.org.

All proceeds go to supporting student scholarships

Building a strong foundation for our next generation a Brick at a time.