

Chamber recognizes World Class employees

BY DAWN CASTRO
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — More than a dozen employees and supervisors were recognized Tuesday during the 2011 World Class Recognition Breakfast held at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center.

First State Bank and Trust, in conjunction with the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce, recognized 17 area employees who “have exceptional work ethics and have shown true dedication to their jobs and community.”

This is the eighth year the breakfast has been held to recognize those who go above and beyond the call of duty while at their respective work places. In front of employers, friends and city officials, employees received plaques for their superior work ethic.

Out of the 17 nominees, four received top honors.

The recipients were as follows: Heather Evans, Career Center specialist at Goodwill Industries Career Center, received the World Class Small Business Employee of the Year; Shannon Pollock, curriculum director for Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, received World Class Large Business Employee of the Year; Brittney Benjamin, manager for Courtyard by Marriot, received World Class Small Business Supervisor of the Year; and April Hall, lead for Regal Marine, received World Class Large Business Supervisor of the Year.

Each of these recipients was awarded a \$1,500 check, their picture on a billboard, a feature in Progress Magazine, and their picture on the Chamber of Commerce website.

After receiving her award, Heather Evans said she would not have been in the running if it weren't for her co-workers.

“I am very thankful I have co-workers who actually took the time to nominate me,” she smiled. “I could not do what I do without my co-workers, Johnny Parker and Carla Gervin (manager). We have a great team of individuals at the center, and we work hard to do good things in the community.”



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Four women received top awards Tuesday at the 2011 World Class Employee Recognition Breakfast hosted by the Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce and First State Bank and Trust. The event recognized 17 employees for their exceptional work ethic and dedication to their community. Pictured left to right are April Hall, Large Business Supervisor of the Year; Shannon Pollock, Large Business Employee of the Year; Brittney Benjamin, Small Business Supervisor of the Year; and Heather Evans, Small Business Employee of the Year.

Sherry Zipperer, marketing and sales officer for First State Bank and Trust, said it was an honor to participate in recognizing and awarding so many talented individuals for their hard work.

“The contributions the nominees make to their organizations and our community is truly inspiring. We are always glad to shine the spotlight on the exceptional workforce and the exceptional employers in Valdosta-Lowndes County.”

At the close of the event, Bill Cowart of First State Bank thanked the employees who were nominated and told them they were all winners. Tom Gooding, Chamber

of Commerce chairman, also congratulated the winners. In his brief closing, he acknowledged the sponsors, the World Class Recognition Committee members and the Special Selection Committee.

Other nominees were

Michael Anderson, Monique Dennis, William Griner, Andy Register, Sheila Searcy, Karen Shepard, LaSaundra Sirmans, Arvinnie White, S. Lynn Bowen, Debbie Conrad, Jennifer Estep, Art Lewis and Teresa Tenery.

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<p>Local Jumbo Sweet Potatoes 19¢ LB</p>	<p>Green Cabbage 2/\$1 LBS</p>

The Small Business employee recipient also said she didn't know exactly what she would do with the cash prize she received but that she may take a small camping trip and pay some bills.

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