

FSU College of Medicine Fort Pierce campus honors faculty

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Pictured (from left) are Dr. Rene Loyola (Guardian of the Mission award winner) and Dr. Ian Cummings (Outstanding Community Faculty Educator award winner).

FORT PIERCE — Two prestigious awards were given out Sept. 19, when the Fort Pierce Regional Campus of the Florida State University College of Medicine gathered its faculty members for a night of appreciation and academic updates.

The event took place at the Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex on the campus of Indian River State College in Fort Pierce. The keynote speaker was John P. Fogarty, M.D., dean of the FSU College of Medicine, who presented an update on the achievements and ongoing success of the college.

The regional campus faculty is composed of more than 240 active Treasure Coast physicians who take turns teaching 37 third- and fourth-year medical students. The students work one-on-one with the physicians and gain clinical experience through seeing patients in the local hospitals, surgery centers, physicians' offices and other ambulatory care facilities.

Two faculty members received awards from Randall Bertolette, M.D., dean of the Fort Pierce campus. One, titled Guardian of the Mission, is for a physician whose activities have furthered the college's mission: to "educate and develop exemplary physicians who practice patient-centered health care, discover and advance knowledge and are responsive to community needs, especially through service to elder, rural, minority and underserved populations." Kenneth Bridges, M.D., the surgery clerkship director, presented this award to Rene Loyola, M.D., a surgeon at St. Lucie Medical Center in Port St. Lucie. He has been a Clinical Assistant Professor for the Fort Pierce Regional Campus since it opened in 2007, teaching surgery to third- and fourth year students. Dr. Loyola has developed a highly respected and successful practice while still finding time for community service. Since 1992, he has provided 6 week rotations to mentor high school students interested in medicine. He has served on boards and committees in leadership roles for the hospitals. He regularly volunteers his outstanding surgical skills for Light of the World charities, going on medical mission trips to Honduras, Haiti and Nicaragua. He also does volunteer surgeries right here on the Treasure Coast, through Stateside Surgeries.

The other award, Outstanding Community Faculty Educator, is for exemplary achievement in meeting student educational needs, working collaboratively, dedication to the curriculum principles and enthusiasm for teaching. Dudley Teel, M.D., the emergency medicine clerkship director, presented this award to Ian Cummings, M.D., an emergency medicine physician for Martin Health System. He teaches the FSU medical students in the fourth-year emergency medicine course. He has been a Clinical Assistant Professor for the Fort Pierce Regional Campus since 2008, and is one of the favorite instructors of the students. He gets rave reviews from the students, as shown in these comments: "One of the best emergency medicine physicians I have worked with. Cares a lot about students yet he allows us to be independent and come up with our own plan. Dr. Cummings really enjoys teaching. His patient care skills are exceptional. He is charming, enthusiastic and ridiculously knowledgeable about everything- not just medically related things. He has the ability to teach pertinent information without being boring or intimidating. It was such an honor to work with him."