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Jones receives award from FSU College of Medicine

Staff report

Local pediatrician Tim Jones, M.D., has been honored with the prestigious Guardian of the Mission Award, presented by the Florida State University College of Medicine, Tallahassee Regional Campus.

The award recognizes 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."

Jones, a pediatrician at The Pediatric Center in Thomasville and Cairo, member of the Archbold Memorial Hospital active medical staff and clinical faculty member at the FSU College of Medicine, has served as an instructor for third- and fourth-year medical students at FSU for nearly four years.

Archbold Medical Center and FSU signed an agreement in 2005 to allow medical students to complete clinical training in Thomasville and affiliated areas. Members of Archbold's medical staff train students in eight required

clinical areas — family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery, obstetrics/gynecology, geriatrics, psychiatry and emergency medicine — as well as other specialties offered as fourth-year electives.

Each student works one-on-one with Jones and other physicians to gain clinical experience by seeing patients in the physician's office and at the hospital.

Jones' nominators described him as a hard-working, dedicated physician who balances the fine line of quality patient care with an extremely busy practice.

"Every time I observed a medical student with (Jones) he made the effort to connect with the patient and their family by always inquiring about their personal life — be it their job, their grandmother, school or hobbies — and personally hugging or holding each and every patient (when the visit was ending)," said Harold Bland, M.D., pediatric clerkship director. "He exemplifies the calling of medicine. I have seen so many students who started and completed their pediatric experience in Thomasville leave with an enormous understanding of rural pediatrics and

what true compassion and dedication to your patient and family is all about."

One former student shared that Jones is "the kind of doctor (who) makes you want to grow up and be like him."

"Having had 15 years experience of working with Dr. Jones, he is unquestionably one of the most compassionate physicians I've had the pleasure of working with," said colleague Benjamin Wilds, M.D., pediatrician. "His commitment to quality patient care is quite obvious. Tim is the kind of guy who stays until the last patient is seen and comes in even when not on call. The children look at him not as their doctor, but as their friend."

Wilds continued, "The students that Tim proctors consider him an outstanding teacher because of his zeal for teaching and knack for details. He is very eager to share his knowledge with students and colleagues alike."

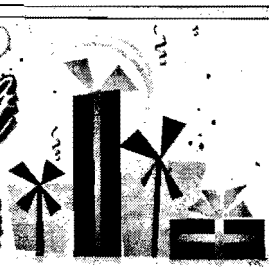
"I am humbled to receive this award," said Jones. "I love what I do and am honored that people trust me with the care of their children."

Jones has served on the active medical staff of John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital for 17 years.



Submitted photo
Dr. Tim Jones, center, received the award from Dr. John Fogarty, dean of the FSU College of Medicine, left, and Dr. Mel Hartsfield, M.P.H., J.D., regional campus dean.

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